

Algerian authorities, opposition resume reconciliation talks

ALGIERS (AFP) — New negotiations between Algeria's military-backed government and the opposition opened here on Monday amid hopes that Muslim fundamentalist leaders would join the talks aimed at ending radical Islamic insurgency.



Lamine Zeroul

The talks, chaired by President Liamine Zeroul, bring government representatives together with five moderate opposition groups who recently demanded that the banned Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) be allowed to take part.

They follow a series of meetings between the authorities and FIS leaders, including talks last Tuesday between General Mohammed Betchine, a senior aide to Mr. Zeroul, and the president's vice-president of the outlawed front, Abassi Madani and Ali Belhadj, in their military prison in Blida, according to informed sources.

Senior members of the FIS demanded on Sunday that the ban on their movement be lifted and their jailed colleagues freed if their movement is to join peace negotiations.

The talks in Blida focussed on a possible ceasefire between the security forces and armed fundamentalists after two-and-a-half years of insurgency which has claimed more than 3,000 lives. Press reports said Mr. Madani has offered a conditional "truce".

But armed FIS supporters are at odds with the most hardline extremist movement, the Armed Islamic Group (GIA), which refuses to negotiate and has targeted foreigners, academics, teachers and schools as part of its campaign against the authorities.

The FIS was banned in March 1992, two months after the army intervened in January 1992 to bring about the cancellation of the second round of independent Alger-

ia's first free general election, which it was poised to win. Still, radio reported that the five parties to the talks gave the government a 14-point memorandum calling for "appeasement measures" such as the release of Islamic detainees and the raising of the state of emergency imposed in February 1992.

Three parties allied in a "democratic movement" are boycotting the talks, whose aim is to work out the conditions necessary for free elections after the transition period, which was originally due to last three years from Mr. Zeroul's appointment in January.

The Socialist Forces Front (FFS) of Hocine Ait Ahmed declared that no "new elements" had emerged to encourage it to the negotiating table, while the Rally for Culture and Democracy (RCD) party of Said Sadi and Ettahaddi, the former communist party, are opposed to any dealings with fundamentalists and have said politics and religion should not be mixed up.

Efforts to secure a ceasefire have so far run up against vehement opposition from the GIA, which on Monday said high schools and universities should remain closed or risk attack and set conditions for opening other schools when the new academic year begins on Saturday.

A GIA tract said that tui-

tion could resume for children aged between six and 15 — provided that all women teachers and girls wore the Islamic veil, that mixed classes are abolished, that girls receive no physical education and that all music teaching ceases.

Schoolgirls not wearing the veil have already been gunned down in the streets and teachers shot in front of their classes.

Some 400 primary and secondary schools have already been burned or bombed since June, but the government said several of them have been repaired to take pupils from Sept. 10. Higher Education Minister Boubakeur Benbouid has announced that 1,500 security personnel will be recruited to guard universities.

Taking part in the talks are the former sole ruling National Liberation Front (FLN), former President Ahmed Ben Bella's Movement for Democracy in Algeria (MDA), the Algerian Renewal Party (PRA) and two moderate Islamic parties.

French Foreign Minister Alain Juppe said that attempts to bring about political dialogue in Algeria were going "in the right direction" even if some parties "still refuse to take part".

In an interview published by Monday's edition of the daily Le Monde, Mr. Juppe added that "one may hope, in view notably of certain rifts in the Muslim front, that one day these attempts will lead to something".

He was apparently referring to Muslims putting pressure on the radicals to lay down their arms and negotiate with the authorities.

Mr. Juppe said that it was up to "the Algerian authorities to say within what limits and with whom dialogue can be conducted and up to the different Algerian political forces to set their terms for participation."



Norwegian Prime Minister Gro Harlem Brundtland arrives at the International Conference on Population and Development Monday in Cairo, where 3,500 delegates from 182

countries are to discuss a 20-year action plan to slow population growth and development in Third World countries (see story page 1) (AFP photo)

Rabbani hopes for peace talks, but says no to ex-communists

KABUL (AFP) — President Burhanuddin Rabbani's administration hopes to negotiate a settlement to Afghanistan's years-long conflict but remains adamant that ex-communist factions be excluded from any talks, an official spokesman said Monday.

Recent peace talks in Islamabad sponsored by U.N. special envoy Mahmud Mestiri foundered, because Mr. Rabbani refused to send representatives to meet with an opposition delegation that included one-time communists loyal to Uzbek militia boss General Abdul Rashid Dostam.

"We don't think Mahmud Mestiri received a sound consultation about the inclusion of Dostam in the peace negotiations," said Mr. Rabbani's press spokesman Abdul Aziz Morad.

"With the exception of one or two factions, no Afghan leader has announced a willingness to talk with Dostam," Mr. Morad said.

Mr. Morad charged that Hezb-i-Islami faction leader Gulbuddin Hekmatyar — a military ally of Gen. Dostam — was responsible for the failure of the latest United Nations initiative by insisting on the inclusion of the Uzbek leader.

Mr. Morad expressed the Kabul administration's support for U.N. participation in trying to solve the Afghan crisis, but repeated that peace talks should not be held outside the country.

He said he backed a plan for the Loya Jirga, or national gathering of peoples' representatives, to meet next month in order to settle the dispute over the country's

leadership. Mr. Morad also said the state was working on a new peace proposal to present to the United Nations.

Meanwhile, fighting continued for the third consecutive day south of Kabul near Pul-i-Alam, capital of Logar province, where Hezb-i-Islami fighters are attempting to dislodge Mr. Rabbani's Jamiat-i-Islami faction.

Fighting has raged since a coalition of Muslim forces ousted the country's communist government, but then broke up into a kaleidoscope of factions attempting to seize power.

A heavy mid-afternoon rocket bombardment broke the relative calm of the capital Monday, but it was not immediately clear if any side had started an infantry offensive.

Islamic Jihad claim killing of Israeli soldier

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (R) — The Islamic Jihad group said in a leaflet on Monday that its guerrillas killed an Israeli soldier in the Gaza Strip as part of a "holy struggle to liberate Palestine."

Gunmen in a moving car killed the soldier and wounded two in the strip on Sunday near Jewish settlements where Israelis still patrol under a May accord handing over most of Gaza to Palestinian rule.

On Sunday, Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's special adviser on terrorism warned Israelis that guerrillas could strike at home or abroad to mark the Jewish new year holiday that started Monday

night.

"The holy struggle for the liberation of the land of Israel, which was carried out by automatic weapons, is a martyr's struggle," the leaflet said.

"This operation is a reality of our struggle and our blood and the land of Palestine are from the enemy."

The group, an offshoot of the PLO, said all of its guerrillas were safely to base.

Israel urges Palestinian to counter Islamists

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin on Monday issued his sternest warning yet to the Palestinians to tackle terrorism or risk derailing the peace process.

"I am beginning to feel that they (the Palestinian Authority) are going too far," he told state radio after the murder of an Israeli army corporal and wounding of two other soldiers in a Gaza Strip ambush.

"I will not say any more," he added ominously in a Jewish new year address on state radio.

"I am not in the habit of making threats, but we insist, if the authority does not change its way of dealing with terrorism, it will be very hard to go on."

Mr. Rabin explained he was not "talking about a total halt" to terror.

"We are still demanding that the Palestinian Authority take action against the terrorist movements, namely Hamas and Islamic Jihad, who openly call for the pursuit of terrorism against Israelis with the avowed intention of damaging or halt-

ing the (peace) process the Palestinians."

He recalled Israel's tradition request against Islamic fundamentalists who took refuge in self-rule Gaza Strip after the murder of two Israeli soldiers, near Tel Aviv, Aug. 26.

"We have had no answer to our request concerning two men who carried out an attack in Ramla. I cannot say they have done something about this. We have to see the Palestinians to fulfill commitments," Mr. Rabin said.

The fundamentalist Islamic Jihad claimed responsibility for killing an Israeli corporal late Sunday, wounding two other soldiers in an ambush which left Palestinians hurt.

Israeli chief of staff Lt. Gen. Elad Barak also urged the Palestinians to act.

"Israel expects the Palestinian leadership and political figures to fulfill their part in guaranteeing Israeli security so we can move forward the peace process," he said on the radio.

By William MacLean
Reuter

Kuwait counters Iraqi campaign on sanctions

KUWAIT — Kuwait, demanding former occupier Iraq recognise it as a sovereign state, has launched a fresh diplomatic offensive to counter an energetic campaign by Baghdad for the lifting of crippling Gulf war sanctions.

The tiny oil-exporter has sent envoys to tell the world its large neighbour has yet to recognise the state it occupied in 1990-91 or free hundreds of Kuwaitis it allegedly holds.

"A Muslim should never be bitten twice from the same den," Information Minister Sheikh Saud Al Sabah was quoted as saying by the London-based Al Wasat magazine. "We were stung so many times we should remain vigilant."

Diplomats from both countries have moved into top gear ahead of a U.N. Security Council regular 60-day review in mid-September of Iraqi compliance with the curbs preventing the resumption of vital oil exports and normal trade.

Iraq last month stepped up efforts to end the four years of economic and political isolation which followed the August 1990 invasion and subsequent

U.S.-led campaign to liberate Kuwait. It sent officials to lobby Russia, France, Pakistan, Indonesia and Morocco among other states.

Kuwaiti foreign ministry undersecretary Suleiman Al Shaheen this week starts a tour of Egypt, China and Security Council president New Zealand with messages from Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad Al Sabah.

"Wherever the Iraqis go we will follow," said a Kuwaiti official. "You will see us turning up when they have left, to explain the justice of our policy."

Sheikh Salem Al Sabah, who heads a search for Kuwait's Gulf war missing, will attend a meeting in Geneva on Tuesday of a multinational committee overseeing the release of prisoners.

Kuwait says Iraq still holds 600 Kuwaitis and

third country nationals including Saudis, Iranians, Egyptians, Syrians, Indians and Lebanese detained during the occupation.

Iraq has long denied it holds any Kuwaitis. But on July 1 in a meeting of the committee Iraqi officials promised to probe the missing Kuwaitis' fate and they may make a statement on the subject at Tuesday's meeting.

Iraq has refused to recognise the border or give explicit and authoritative recognition of Kuwaiti sovereignty. But it has hinted it may issue a statement on those questions ahead of the mid-September review.

Kuwait insists any recognition be made by a top Iraqi official and published in the Iraqi government gazette. Iraq should also submit the statement to the U.N. Security Council as a

permanent U.N. document, Kuwaiti officials say. Kuwait says even if Iraq meets all international demands, it will never be trustworthy and points as an example to passages in Iraqi school books describing Kuwait as Iraqi land.

Baghdad has made progress complying with Gulf war resolutions that called for it to scrap its weapons of mass destruction and for long-term monitoring to ensure it does not reacquire forbidden arms.

But most council members insist that before sanctions can be lifted, Baghdad must also unequivocally recognise the sovereignty of Kuwait and its U.N.-demarcated borders.

There is virtually no chance of an easing of sanctions at the September review, but some council members might want to issue statement commending Baghdad for complying with some resolutions.

There is speculation that the council might go further and say that arrangements for long-term monitoring of Iraqi facilities with a military potential were in place and that a trial period lasting six months or possibly longer could begin.

Yemen's last Jews torn between staying home or emigrating

By Katherine Roth
Agence France Presse

SAADA, Yemen — Yemen's dwindling group of Jews is torn between staying in their Islamic homeland or accepting offers to emigrate to Israel or elsewhere.

Nowhere is their dilemma more evident than in Saada, a mountain town near the border with Saudi Arabia where a once-thriving Jewish community has shrunk to several dozen people.

Jews here say they now number fewer than 300 in the whole of Yemen, though authorities put the figure at 2,000. The few who remain live mostly in the north but say the pressure to leave is strong.

In early August, Israel said negotiations were underway with Yemen to allow the last few Jews to leave.

More than 60,000 have gone to Israel since its creation in 1948.

"We still have enough people for the minimum of ten necessary to perform Saturday services, but that might not be true for long,"

lamented Moshe Khobani, one of Saada's two rabbis. There is no local synagogue in Saada, 245 kilometres north of Sanaa, and the only Hebrew school here was forced to close because there were not enough Jewish students to attend.

Most Yemeni Jews are taught Hebrew and other subjects at home by their parents and religious traditions are passed down from generation to generation.

At first glance, nothing separates Mr. Khobani from other Yemenis. Yemeni Jews dress as Muslims except they don't have the right to wear the Jamia, a curved dagger.

Few wear Jewish headgear, preferring the queried headscarves that resemble the Arab kuffeh.

Yemeni Jews are known for their skilled silver work, but as the community disappears so do the arts for which it has long been famous.

Six years ago there were more than 100 Jewish silver craftsmen in Saada. Today Mr. Khobani is one of fewer than 20 remaining silversmiths here.

"Many families are leaving and that makes it hard on the few of us who remain. If everyone else leaves we'll finally be obliged to go too," Mr. Khobani said as he crafted silver pieces in his workshop.

Yemeni Jews say they are offered money, education and job opportunities from international Jewish organisations vying for their attention if they agree to go abroad.

Yousef Soleiman Habib, another Jew from Saada, said four families went to the United States recently under the sponsorship of a New York-based Jewish group with close ties to the Israeli government.

Members of the U.S. group staying at a small hotel in Sanaa refused to comment on their mission or give the official name of their organisation.

Some 32 other Yemeni Jews, mainly youths, left the country with the help of an Ashkenazi, or central European, Jewish organisation that is also based in New York.

"I spent a month in New

York eight months ago on the invitation of the nazis," said Mr. Habib whose grandparents to Israel three years ago.

"But my home is here and I'm staying in Yemen," Yousef Zareb, 40, said.

Too would remain of his family had emigrated. "I'm Yemeni. Where do you want to go? I have never been south of Sanaa," said.

Because the Jewish community has become so small, some members have converted to Islam in order to marry. One of Mr. Habib's sisters has married a Muslim tribesman.

His other sister won't be able to find a Jewish girl to marry if the family remains in Yemen.

Remaining Jews also face counter difficulties communicating with relatives in the United States and especially Israel.

The Yemeni government has said Jews are free to leave or stay. "They are Yemenis like any other Yemenis," insisted Saada governor Ali Al Qaisi.

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 773111-19

PROGRAMME TWO
17:00 Alice Au Pays De Merveilles
17:30 Eureka J'ai Tuu Paux
18:30 News in French
18:45 Grand Galop
19:00 News in Hebrew
19:30 News in Arabic
20:00 Innovation
21:10 Hollywood Stuntmakers
21:30 The Commish
22:00 News in English
22:30 Come In Spinner

PRAYER TIMES

06:49 Fajr
06:59 Sunrise
12:34 Dhuhr
16:09 Asr
19:41 Maghrib
20:20 Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church
Swedish, Tel. 810740
Assembly of God Church, Tel. 632785
St. Joseph Church, Tel. 624590
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440
De la Salle Church, Tel. 661757
Terrence Church, Tel. 623366
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541

Anglican Church Tel. 630851, Tel. 625433

Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261
St. Egidius Church Tel. 771751
Armenian International Church Tel. 625226
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 624328
German-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tel. 684195
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints Tel. 624932
Church of Nazareth Tel. 625591
The Evangelical Local Church in Amman Tel. 811295

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

Normal summer weather conditions will prevail with winds north-westerly moderate. In Amman, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.

Min./Max. temp. 17/31
Amman 24/38
Deserts 15/35
Jordan Valley 23/37

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 30, Aqaba 36. Humidity readings: Amman 35 per cent, Aqaba 21 per cent.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:
Dr. Nasser Ibrahim 662935
Dr. Yousef Rashid 896301
Dr. Fayez Dabbas 799155
Dr. Jamal Tariq 794710
Firas pharmacy 661912
Ferdows pharmacy 778336
Al Asena pharmacy 637055
Nakrokh pharmacy 623672
Al Salam pharmacy 636790
Yacoub pharmacy 644945
Shneissan pharmacy 637660
Nakrokh pharmacy 623672
Najib pharmacy 847632

IRABD:

Dr. Mohammad Al Hila 279773
Alqida pharmacy 847632

ZARQA:

Dr. Walid Halaish 982790
Khalifah pharmacy 985417

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre 637111
Civil Defence Department 661111

Civil Defence Immediate

Rescue 630341
Civil Defence Emergency 199
Fire Brigade 192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade 617101
Blood Bank 775121
Highway Police 843402
Traffic Police 896390
Public Security Department 630221
Hotel Complaints 605080
Price Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage 897467
Amman Municipality 787111
Telephone Information 121
Overseas Calls 010230
Central Amman Telephone 623101
Abdali Telephone Repairs 661101
Jordan Television 773111
Radio Jordan 774111
Water Authority 680100
Jordan Electricity Authority 815615

Electric Power

Company 636381
RJ Flight Information 06-53200
Queen Alia Intl. Airport 06-53200

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:
Hussein Medical Centre 813813/32
Khalidi Maternity, J. Amn 644281/6

Akileh Maternity, J. Amn.

644441/2
Jabal Amman Maternity 642362
Malhas, J. Amman 636140
Palestine, Shmiesani 664171/4
Shmiesani Hospital 669131
University Hospital 945845
The Islamic, Abdali 666127/37
Al-Abdi, Abdali 6641646
Italian, Al-Muhajireen 77101/3
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh 77511/26
Army, Marks 891611/15
Queen Alia Hospital 666100
Madani, Amman 674155
ZARQA:
Zarqa Govt. Hospital (09)883323
Zarqa National Hospital (09)900560
Ibn Sina Hospital (09)986732
Al-Hilma Modern Hospital (09)999990
DIBD:
Princess Basma Hospital (02)275555
Greek Catholic Hospital (02)72275
In Al-Nabes Hospital (02)247100
AQABA:
Princess Haya Hospital (03)314111

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by

Royal Jordanian (RJ) information

department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (08)53200-5, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

04:10 Jakarta, Kuala Lumpur (RJ)
08:00 Damascus (RJ)
08:30 Doha, Bahrain (RJ)
08:45 Abu Dhabi (RJ)
10:15 Muscat, Dubai (RJ)
10:35 Doha, Bahrain (RJ)
10:59 London (RJ)
17:35 Cairo (RJ)
17:50 Frankfurt (RJ)
17:55 Amsterdam (RJ)
18:40 Madrid (add) (RJ)
03:00 Other Flights (Terminal 2)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

04:20 Vienna (OS)
09:35 Cairo (MS)
13:30 Riyadh (SV)
14:00 Abu Dhabi (GF)
17:00 Rome (AZ)
18:30 Paris, Beirut (AF)
19:30 Kiev (6U)

DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

06:00 Aqaba (RJ)
06:30 Amsterdam, New York (RJ)
12:30 Vienna, Frankfurt (RJ)
12:35 Montreal, Toronto (RJ)
12:35 Paris (RJ)
12:35 Geneva, Brussels (RJ)
13:45 Cairo (RJ)
13:50 London (RJ)
14:30 Madrid (RJ)
20:45 Bahrain, Doha (RJ)
21:00 Larnaca (RJ)
21:30 Athens (GY)
22:30 Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)
22:50 Kuala Lumpur, Singapore (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

09:30 Beirut (add) (ME)
10:30 Larnaca, Rome (AZ)
12:30 Cairo (MS)
14:30 Abu Dhabi, Athens (GF)
15:30 Riyadh (SV)
20:30 Damascus (AZ)
22:30 Kiev (6U)
06:30 Amsterdam (KL)
01:30 Bucharest (RO)

HIJAZ RAILWAY

TRAIN

Dep. Amman 8:00 a.m. every Monday
Arr. Damascus 5:00 p.m. every Monday
Dep. Amman 7:30 a.m. every Monday
Arr. Damascus 5:00 p.m. every Monday

MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower price in Jds per kg

Apple 600/650
Banana 300/350
Banana (Mukammal) 110/160
Carrot 250/300
Cauliflower 250/300
Cucumbers (large) 200/250
Cucumbers (small) 300/350
Eggplant 200/250
Garlic 600/650
Grapes 600/650
Grapes (Hawran) 600/650
Guava 200/250
Lemon 200/250
Marrow (large) 200/250
Marrow (small) 200/250
Mushrooms 200/250
Onion (dry) 200/250
Onion (wet) 200/250
Pepper (hot) 200/250
Pepper (sweet) 200/250
Potato 200/250
Peaches 200/250
Pomegranate 200/250
Tomato 200/250
Watermelon 100/150

WHAT'S ON

SONG FESTIVAL

Children's song festival at the Royal Cultural Centre at 5:00 p.m.

ANNUAL CONCERT

Gore: Haiti leaders will leave 'one way or another'

WASHINGTON (R) — Vice President Al Gore said Sunday that Haiti's military leaders will have to leave "one way or another."

Mr. Gore said that "the world community is outraged" at what he called Haiti's "illegal dictators" of military rulers and their

abuses of power.

Asked on NBC Television's "meet the press" if a U.S. invasion of Haiti was inevitable, Mr. Gore replied, "it is not inevitable if the illegal dictators in Haiti decide to comply with the world community's wishes and demands embodied in the United Nations' Resolution 940

and leave of their own accord.

"We have made it clear that the regime there is going to leave one way or another," Mr. Gore said.

But he gave no inkling as to when and if the United States would set a deadline for any invasion if Haiti's military leadership, headed

by Lieutenant General Raoul Cedras, continued to defy U.S. demands that they cede power to exiled President Jean-Bertrand Aristide.

Deputy Secretary of State Strobe Talbott said last week that options other than invasion have nearly been exhausted and U.S. military officials have talked openly about preparations for an invasion.

Haiti's 7,000-member military force, which has fewer than a dozen armoured personnel carriers and only light weapons, is ill-equipped to defend against an American invasion force.

On Saturday, Representative Lee Hamilton said the United States was close to military intervention in Haiti, "unless we can have a dramatic diplomatic initiative... or perhaps some opening that might come through some of the secret activities that are going on."

"I can't be specific about that, but there are some activities," Mr. Hamilton, the chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, said on CNN's "Newsmaker Saturday" programme, declining to say what they were.



Women panhandle outside a church in Port-au-Prince, Haiti following the morning service. The ongoing economic embargo against Haiti has had the most effects on the country's poor according to local church authorities (AFP photo)

Diplomats in Port-au-Prince said they knew of no specific secret initiative but added there were signs of a rift among Haiti's military leaders.

Some said that although Gen. Cedras and Brigadier-General Philippe Biamby showed no indication they would discuss stepping down, the third of the trio Washington has pledged to remove, Colonel Joseph Michel Francois, was seen as more willing

to negotiate. Gen. Cedras, who refused to speak to reporters Sunday after attending mass with his wife, has been keeping a low profile.

Mr. Hamilton, as well as many other members of Congress, have expressed reservations about how long a U.S. force would have to remain in Haiti and about Mr. Aristide's leadership ability. "I think most members of Congress are highly sceptical of intervention. I do believe, however, that if a president decides to intervene, makes the case for it, and the American military forces are on the island, Congress will accept it," Mr. Hamilton said.

Senate Republican leader Bob Dole said this week he was opposed to an invasion unless President Bill Clinton could convince him that it was in the U.S. national interest.



Haitian military leader Raoul Cedras (left) and his wife Jannick Prosper (centre) enter a church in Port-au-Prince, Haiti (AFP photo)

Australia's Evans calls for U.N. military force

SYDNEY (R) — Australian aid officials Monday supported calls by Foreign Minister Gareth Evans for a permanent U.N. military force paid for from existing national defence budgets or an international tax or levy.

Care Australia, involved in Rwanda, Somalia and Cambodia, Monday called for more coordinated U.N. military involvement in aid missions.

"Somalia proved how successful a joint relief effort can be during times of large-scale disaster... and we all hope that future emergencies will comprise an even more effective and coordinated military response," said National Director Ian Harris.

Community Aid Abroad (CAA) also backed Mr. Evans' plan.

"We support the plan strongly, with the caveat that there are well-trained, well-coordinated troops," Executive Director Jeremy Hobbs said.

Mr. Hobbs said the thousands of deaths in the Rwandan-Zaire border refugee camps could have been avoided had the United Nations mobilised a force more quickly and prevented the mass exodus from Rwanda.

In the latest edition of the U.S. magazine Foreign Policy, published Sunday, Mr. Evans described the U.N.'s peacekeeping system as makeshift, under-trained, ill-equipped and slow.

"Although the idea of the U.N. standing force has in the past been ruled out as unrealistic, including by me, the U.N.'s recent impotence in the face of genocide gives cause for reconsideration," Mr. Evans said.

Mr. Evans said a standing force could be paid for by a contribution of five per cent of defence budgets by all U.N. members, resulting in a U.N. security budget of \$40 billion, 10 times the body's current peacekeeping budget.

Alternatively, financing could come from a levy on international air travel — a flat \$10 per passenger levy would yield \$3 billion — or a turnover tax on foreign-exchange transactions of about 0.1 per cent.

"Cost will be the key reason, though not the only one, for member states resisting the creation of a rapid reaction force of any size," Mr. Evans wrote.

Mr. Evans said a U.N. military force must be complemented with preventive diplomacy and called for the creation of six regional U.N. preventive diplomacy units, staffed by senior U.N. officers familiar with their regional issues.

The foreign minister also called for an administrative reorganisation of the United Nations involving the creation of four deputy secretaries general, one responsible for peace-building and humanitarian affairs, to make management more efficient.

Bloody battle looms in French presidential poll

PARIS (AFP) — A bloody battle loomed Monday within France's ruling right-wing coalition after Gaullist leader Jacques Chirac threw his hat in the ring for next year's presidential poll in a bid to gain the upper hand from Prime Minister Edouard Balladur.

Mr. Balladur, so far an undeclared candidate for the top job, faced a split within his government as ministers stated their preferences, opening up the prospects for two Gaullist candidates in the presidential election next April and May.

Mr. Chirac, president of the Rally for the Republic (RPR) Party, opened fire at the weekend as Mr. Balladur continued to fly high in opinion polls, with one survey crediting the prime minister with a popularity rating of 60 per cent.

Another poll said that if American-style primary elections were held to pick a conservative candidate, Mr. Balladur would win with 44 per cent of the vote, compared with 31 per cent for Chirac.

Mr. Balladur's persistent high standing in the polls forced Mr. Chirac to react or eclipse.

Addressing a seminar of the RPR youth wing in Bordeaux over the weekend, the Gaullist leader made it abundantly clear he will stand for election, even though he stopped short of a formal declaration of candidacy.

To cries of "Chirac for president," he made a thinly-veiled attack on Mr. Balladur, his former protégé within the RPR, accusing him of betrayal and ingratitude.

Mr. Chirac recalled the "pact" between himself and Mr. Balladur after the right's landslide legislative victory over the Socialists in March 1993. Under the pact, the premiership was for Mr. Balladur, while Mr. Chirac was to devote himself to his presidential campaign.

"It is human nature for ambitions to come out into the open," Mr. Chirac said, "but at the end of the road, unity must prevail, for the interest of France demands it, and this is no empty word for Gaullists."

Far from encouraging uni-

ty, 61-year-old Chirac opened up a split within the governing coalition, and presented Mr. Balladur with a scenario he has been trying to avoid — a premature presidential campaign poisoning the remaining eight months of his government.

Foreign Minister Alain Juppe, who is RPR secretary-general, signalled the start of the battle Friday night by plumping openly for Mr. Chirac.

Mr. Juppe told the seminar: "If Jacques Chirac shows the way, you will be there — and I will be with you — to follow him."

Mr. Juppe at once reaffirmed his "loyalty" to the government, but the clear support for a Chirac candidacy by such a prominent member of the government could only embarrass the 64-year-old Balladur.

The remarks were a switch for Mr. Juppe, who only last month had said that the RPR would have to choose between the two rivals, implying for the first time that the party's candidate would not automatically be Mr. Chirac.

Opinion polls have shown that Mr. Chirac, already a loser in presidential elections in 1981 and 1988, could be defeated by Jacques Delors, 68, the outgoing European Commission president and a former moderate Socialist finance minister. Mr. Balladur on the other hand would easily defeat Mr. Delors, the polls show.

Mr. Delors has so far been reluctant to declare his candidacy, but appears the Socialists' best hope.

The RPR is the biggest party in the ruling right-wing coalition. Big guns in its junior partner, the Union for French Democracy (UDF), were prompted by Mr. Chirac's broadside to restate their support for a Balladur candidacy.

Industry Minister Gerard Longuet came out for a "unity candidate" — meaning Mr. Balladur — and criticised Mr. Chirac's stance as premature, while Defence Minister Francois Leotard attacked those openly calling for a Chirac candidacy as "snipers" who were undermining the coalition government.

Cambodia coup plotter escapes from custody

PHNOM PENH (R) — One of the main organisers of a failed coup attempt in Cambodia in July has escaped from military detention, a senior police commander said Monday.

General Sin Song, a former interior minister in the old Vietnamese-installed government, escaped early Sunday morning, the police commander said, asking not to be named.

"He escaped from the detention house Sunday morning between 3 and 4 a.m. we are in the process of tracking him down," the commander said.

Gen. Sin Song was originally placed under house arrest on July 3 while his alleged co-conspirator, Prince Norodom Chakrapong, was ordered to leave

Cambodia. Gen. Sin Song was later placed under custody of the Defence Ministry and was supervised by military police at the time of his escape, the police source told Reuters.

Prince Chakrapong, a former deputy prime minister and a son of King Norodom Sihanouk, first landed in Malaysia before travelling on to Thailand.

Last Tuesday he arrived in France and boarded a domestic flight to the southern town of Montpellier. He has a French residency permit dating back to the 1970s.

Gen. Sin Song, Prince Chakrapong and another alleged plotter, General Sin Sen, were all members of the Cambodian People's Party (CPP), the political wing of the former regime.

Malaysia detains Al Arqam leader's wife, aide

KUALA LUMPUR (AFP) — Malaysian police said Monday one of the wives and a senior aide of Al Arqam leader Ashaari Mohammad would be detained under state security laws.

Hatijah Aam, one of Mr. Ashaari's four wives, and a senior aide, Soid Sulaiman, are to join the sect leader in detention under Malaysia's Internal Security Act (ISA), which allows imprisonment without trial, the nation's Deputy Police Chief Samsuri Arshad said.

Three other aides of the detained 57-year-old Muslim leader were held under the Societies Act, under which they could be fined or jailed. "Hatijah's six-month-old baby will be allowed to stay with her as she is being breast-fed," a police spokesman said.

Sect followers said they had no plans for a militant response to the action.

The detentions signal the government's deepening of a clampdown launched last month when Malaysia outlawed the sect's activities, ruling that Al Arqam propagated deviationist teachings.

Mr. Samsuri said the ISA arrests were made to pave the way for further investigations because police believe they were adequate for detaining the sect leaders indefinitely.

IAEA: Safety is key to acceptance of nuclear power

VIENNA (AFP) — Nuclear power plants would garner wider public acceptance only through continued demonstration of their safety and reliability, the head of the world's nuclear watchdog said here Monday.

"The wider acceptance of the nuclear option can only be expected from continued demonstration of its safety, reliability and environmental advantages," said Hans Blix, head of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), during a speech opening a conference on nuclear power.

The four-day conference, attended by delegates from 37 countries and five international organisations, is being held in conjunction with the 40th anniversary of the opening of the first nuclear power plant in Obninsk, Russia, in 1954.

There are currently 430 nuclear power plants operating in 30 countries and producing 17 per cent of the world's electrical energy.

Mr. Blix told the delegates that it was regrettable that atomic weapons and the illegal traffic of nuclear material had tended to undermine the usefulness of nuclear power plants.

"It is regrettable that the issues which now dominate the media tend to create an atmosphere in which it is difficult to have a balanced public discussion for the nuclear power option," Mr. Blix said.

Meanwhile, forty years af-

ter the world's first nuclear power station came on stream in the Soviet Union, the Russian nuclear industry is battling for its future amid mounting Western pressure.

Russian officials are convinced that Western concerns over security at Russian nuclear power industry.

That, and the parlous state of the Russian economy, are posing a real threat to the development of the industry, Russian experts say.

"The worst thing is that we are losing our scientific potential," one expert said.

"If things don't improve quickly, within five years we'll be reduced to buying everything from the Americans."

Despite the catastrophic nuclear leak at Chernobyl in Ukraine in April 1986, officials are very proud of what the industry has achieved.

"Our nuclear power stations are three times cheaper, and in many cases more efficient than their Western equivalents," the expert said.

A scientist in the Atomic Energy Ministry, who declined to be named, poured scorn on the West's obsession with Chernobyl.

"It's ridiculous. Our power stations are no less safe than the Americans'. Chernobyl was caused by a human error, just like Three Mile Island," he said, referring to a leak of radioactivity from a three-month-old reactor at Three Mile Island near Harrisburg, Pennsylvania in March 1979.

"Workers at the power stations are very aware of safety problems, perhaps even more so since Chernobyl."

Western experts who have inspected Russian plants confirm that the workers are highly professional in their approach.

Their main worries stem from the fact that the future development of the Russian nuclear programme is based on RBMK reactors like the one at Chernobyl.

Western scientists have also expressed doubts about the credibility of Russia's nuclear safety inspectorate, GosAtomNadzor, to which each power station must apply for a licence every year.

GosAtomNadzor reports directly to the Russian president, and its inspectors are in theory independent of the Atomic Energy Ministry.

But in reality they get paid less than the operators in the power stations. One Western expert said that at least one nuclear power station was in the habit of paying GosAtomNadzor inspectors, undermining their independence.

The Russians deny that such payments are made, but they do admit that the industry is facing a general funding crisis.

Nearly all development projects have been frozen for lack of funds. A symptom of the economic crisis is that many major clients, factories and towns, fail to pay their electricity bills.

The overall debt to electricity producers was recently estimated at \$1 billion. The power stations, in turn, often pay their own employees months late.

Nuclear installations themselves are ageing — around 20 per cent of the reactors in Russia date back to the early 1970s — and construction work on their replacements has not started. Research institutes too are feeling the pinch.

So far Russia is managing to meet the demand for electricity. In spite of the country's economic dislocation, Russia's nine nuclear power stations last year kept output at the level of previous years, generating 120 billion kilowatt hours to supply 12 per cent of the country's electricity needs.

Last year 29 accidents were logged, all of them at Level One, the lowest on the international scale of incidents at nuclear power stations, and none of them involved any leak of radioactivity.

But the ghost of Chernobyl continues to haunt the industry. In Ukraine, four nuclear reactors beside Chernobyl are not generating enough to make up the shortfall in the country's electricity requirements.

Mindful of Western anxiety, and hopeful of securing a much-needed cash windfall, Kiev has constantly upped its estimates of the cost of closing the Chernobyl plant for good.

Bill Wyman's wife gives birth to a daughter

LONDON (AP) — Suzanne Wyman, wife of former Rolling Stone Bill Wyman, gave birth Sunday to their first child, a daughter, Katharine Noelle, weighing 6 lbs. 13 oz. (3.09 kilograms). Wyman, 57, who was a bass player with the rock group until last year, has a 31-year-old son from a previous marriage. He married the former Suzanne Accosta, 34, an American fashion designer, in France in April 1993.

Florida grave may tell if Napoleon was murdered

WASHINGTON (AFP) — Remains in a Florida grave may unravel an imperial mystery, say students of Napoleon bent on discovering if the tricolored Corsican might have been murdered. "We're thinking about trying to exhume the body of Napoleon's nephew" who is buried in Tallahassee, said Napoleonic Society of America (NSA) spokesman Bob Snibbe. It's come down to a battle for bones and bits of hair, and awaiting potentially telling test results from the laboratories of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Mr. Snibbe said, sounding convinced the society is getting closer to the truth.

The famed French emperor died in 1821 on the windswept South Atlantic island of Saint Helena, but just how he died has kept students of his life hunting for clues for more than a century. Two separate hair samples reportedly from the Little Corporal himself are being tested by the FBI to determine whether the person or persons from whom they were snipped died of arsenic poisoning. But "whether it was really Napoleon's hair, nobody really knows," Mr. Snibbe acknowledged. Still, he said, "the (atomic absorption) tests will reveal how much arsenic is in the hair, if any" — though without confirming precisely whose hair was tested. The arsenic test results are to be unveiled at the NSA annual conference in Chicago next week.

Bangladesh to export crocodiles

DHAKA (AFP) — Commerce Minister M. Shamsul Islam said Bangladesh would export crocodiles to boost its non-traditional exports sector, newspapers here reported Monday. The minister told parliament Sunday that foreign demand for crocodiles was strong and that they would be taken from the Sundarban mangrove forest area. He did not say what the crocodiles would be used for or in what form they would be exported. Bangladesh's existing non-traditional exports include cane furniture and handicrafts.

Closure of Phnom Penh brothel district criticised

PHNOM PENH (AFP) — City authorities are under fire for shutting down Phnom Penh's notorious Toul Kork brothel district, and critics say the closure will promote the spread of disease and the loss of income for locals. Health workers said they were upset about the crackdown, and have warned that the brothel ban will push sex workers underground, and complicate the prevention and control of the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV). But while the government argued about the best way to prevent the spread of sexually transmitted diseases, other Toul Kork residents had more immediate concerns. "I used to make \$150 a month from hiring my house to the prostitutes, but now I get nothing," said a disappointed Nob Kim, 39, Chan Sok, 54, who used to pay her rent by selling anti-venereal disease creams and condoms to the male clients and prostitutes in Toul Kork said: "Now I won't be able to sell even a single condom." "I don't know how to get money to feed my children now," she said. Ouk Vongvathany, a doctor at a clinic in the once-thriving red light district, said the closure "is good for the government but it is not good for us to control the possible spread of AIDS." She said that prostitutes would stop coming to the clinic for check-ups for sexually transmitted diseases — particularly HIV, the precursor to acquire immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS) — for fear of police harassment.

Bill Wyman wife gives birth to a daughter

LONDON (AP) — Bill Wyman, wife of the late rock star, gave birth Sunday to a daughter, Noelle, weighing 3.09 kilograms (6.83 pounds), born in a London hospital. Wyman, 57, who played with the band The Who until last year, married Suzanne Adams, an American fashion designer, in France in April.

Florida grand jury tells if Naples was murdered

WASHINGTON (AP) — A grand jury in Naples, Fla., is expected to decide whether a man who was shot and killed in a bar in Naples last week was murdered. The man, a 30-year-old American, was shot in the back of the head by a man who was later identified as a member of the Mafia.

trial

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gaffe

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Bangladesh to export crocodiles

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Closure of Phnom Penh brothel district critical

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Seoul opposition leader urges N. Korean detente

SEOUL (R) — The head of South Korea's main opposition party Monday urged President Kim Young-Sam to move quickly to thaw relations with Communist North Korea.

U.N. warns Pope's life 'at risk' in Sarajevo

SARAJEVO (R) — U.N. peacekeepers warned on Monday that Pope John Paul's life would be at risk on a Sarajevo visit and accused Muslim forces of deliberately hitting the city's airport with a mortar shell last month.

Nigerian oil strike fading as workers return

LAGOS (R) — More Nigerian oil workers returned to their jobs Monday as a two-month strike to topple the military government appeared to wane, industry officials said.



The scene outside the headquarters of Sinn Féin, the political wing of the IRA, on Falls Road in Belfast after a car bomb exploded late Sunday. No one was injured in the blast which came four days after the IRA declared an open-ended ceasefire (AFP photo)

Ireland seeks to quell U.K. doubts on ceasefire

BELFAST (R) — Irish Foreign Minister Dick Spring will seek to dispel British doubts about the permanence of an IRA ceasefire in talks Monday evening with Britain's Northern Ireland Secretary, Sir Patrick Mayhew.

The two men, key players in a nine-month-old Anglo-Irish peace process, meet the day after the Protestant UVF extremist group car-bombed the Belfast offices of the IRA's political wing, Sinn Féin, in what it said was an attack to promote democracy.

Mr. Spring and Sir Patrick will try to lay the groundwork for the next moves to end the 25-year-old sectarian and political conflict in Northern Ireland by discussing fresh all-party talks which Sinn Féin could join if the IRA ceasefire is for good.

It was the first car bomb attack by the Ulster Volunteer Force in 17 years and raised fears among security forces about a new-found sophistication of their bombing techniques.

The UVF mounted the biggest guerrilla attack in the Irish Republic in 20 years in May when it tried to bomb a Sinn Féin party in Dublin with a bag of sophisticated Semtex explosive.

The type of explosive used in Sunday night's raid was not immediately known but it showed the determination of the UVF to oppose any moves by Sinn Féin to become part of the legal political process taking shape in Northern Ireland.

A police spokesman said no one was injured in the blast, which shattered nearby windows but did not cause much damage.

On Thursday the UVF shot and killed a Catholic man.

Protestant extremists believe that, in exchange for the ceasefire, Britain has made secret concessions to the IRA and Sinn Féin that will dilute the province's British status or lead to unification with Ireland.

Britain denies this. "This was an attack on the peace process, but we will not be intimidated by the loyalist death squads nor will we be deflected from the peace process," Tom Hartley, a Sinn Féin Belfast city councillor, said in a statement.

The UVF and the bigger Ulster Freedom Fighters are studying their response to the IRA ceasefire and appeals by Britain and Ireland to match it with one of their own.

Irish trade union official Chris Hudson, who met UVF representatives last week on behalf of the Irish government, told Irish Radio he was cautiously optimistic the Protestant extremists would end their war against Irish nationalists.

"I saw people who would describe themselves as very, very close to the UVF. My feeling was that there was definitely cautious optimism on their side — that they were beginning to feel convinced there was no sell-out, no deals done, no secret agenda."

"They were optimistic that sooner rather than later they could bring around a cessation of violence on the loyalist side," he told the radio station.

The London Guardian newspaper said the U.S. government, which has played a central role in recent developments, had granted a second visitor's visa to Sinn Féin leader Gerry Adams.

"He has almost certainly the personal intervention of President Clinton to thank for this," it said.

Chechen opposition gather forces against Dudayev

MOSCOW (AP) — Caucasus republic has intensified since the council called Friday for the military overthrow of Mr. Dudayev's government.

The same day, clashes between Provisional Council forces and government troops killed up to 20 people.

Up to nine more were killed Sunday in the clashes at Argun, government and council sources said.

The rapprochement between the opposition groups emerged after Mr. Avturkhanov met Sunday with Mr. Khasbulatov, one of the leaders of the October 1993 revolt against Boris Yeltsin and who returned to his native Chechnya at the beginning of August.

Troops loyal to Mr. Labazanov were forced to retreat from Argun after government troops moved in with tanks and heavy weapons.

ITAR-TASS newsagency said.

Seoul opposition leader urges N. Korean detente

SEOUL (R) — The head of South Korea's main opposition party Monday urged President Kim Young-Sam to move quickly to thaw relations with Communist North Korea.

Democratic Party (DP) Chairman Lee Ki-Tack urged Mr. Kim to replace his foreign and unification ministers, saying their policies of cold war confrontation had worsened relations with Pyongyang.

"Relations between the United States and North Korea have reached a point where they are even discussing a peace agreement and the opening of liaison offices," Mr. Lee said.

"China and Russia have also been taking an active stance for the sake of their national interests. Our government has only been involved in diplomatic friction which does not suit the post-cold-war era," he said in a statement.

"North Korea, too, is moving forward fast diplomatically to come out of its isolation

U.S., Cuba are far apart on legal visas for migrants

NEW YORK (R) — The United States and Cuba attempt again Monday to bridge differences on the mass exodus of Cuban boat people sailing towards Florida with U.S. officials warning against expectations of a quick accord.

After early optimism when the talks began Thursday, the third session ended with both sides far apart on a U.S. offer to increase legal immigration in exchange for Cuba halting the migration, now numbering over 30,000 this year.

At issue is a U.S. offer to issue immigration visas to more than 20,000 Cubans a year in return for Havana stopping the uncontrolled exodus. To date the United States has only allowed in about 2,700 people a year, while Cuba insists a 1982 agreement allowed for thousands more.

Cuba's chief delegate, Ricardo Alarcon, has maintained that the number of visas should be far higher than the United States had proposed, pointing to about 130,000 Cubans who have tried unsuccessfully to obtain legal entry.

He apparently told U.S. negotiators Sunday, including Michael Stoll, the deputy secretary of state, that Havana wanted at least 100,000 legal Cuban visas, according to the New York Times.

In comparison, more than 30,000 Cubans have tried to enter the United States illegally since the beginning of the year, most of them in August sailing rafts and rickety boats.

David Johnson, spokesman for the U.S. delegation would say only: "There are substantial gaps between us and I would caution against any premature speculation that an agreement will be reached."

"The differences are significant," he told reporters Sunday after the third round of negotiations at the U.S. mission to the United Nations.

But he again failed to give any explanation or answer questions after his regular briefings.

Reversing earlier U.S. policies against Cubans who escaped by sea, President Bill Clinton last month said the new refugees could not come to the United States.

Instead, they are being taken to the U.S. naval base at Guantanamo on the Western tip of Cuba. He also tightened the embargo by forbidding remittances and travel by relatives.

Panama Sunday announced it would allow up to 10,000 Cuban refugees to be housed in U.S. controlled territory along the Panama Canal to relieve congestion at Guantanamo. The cost to the United States for six months will run to almost \$50 million, a U.S. military spokesman said.

The U.S. Coast Guard picked up 620 Cuban rafters at sea by late afternoon Sunday, petty officer Alex Worden said. Saturday's total was 946, down from earlier in the week but still high.

Twenty-two Cubans, all from the same family, slipped past the Coast Guard and landed their wooden boat at the Dry Tortugas National Park, a remote island about 70 miles (110 kilometres) west of Key West, Florida, in the Gulf of Mexico.

Park rangers said they helped with the island's housekeeping, taking brooms and mops to clean up their quarters before being taken to an immigration centre in Texas.

Mr. Alarcon, a former foreign minister who is president of Cuba's National Assembly, has insisted that Cubans are leaving because of economic hardships due to the 32-year-old U.S. economic embargo and not political oppression.

"If you want to find a real resolution to this problem you cannot ignore the sources of the problem," he told the Cable News Network. "And the sources are the economic embargo."

Spanish Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez apparently agreed, saying that the U.S. policy of discussing migration in isolation was self-defeating.

"Emigration is strictly a product of Cuba's problems and specifically of its relation with the United States," he told Madrid's El Pais newspaper.

Civil rights leader Jesse Jackson also called for a new initiative in U.S. policy. He told CBS Television's Face The Nation programme that now was the time "to use aggressive diplomacy and negotiations, trade and media to create new expectations within Cuba and create irreversible change."

U.N. warns Pope's life 'at risk' in Sarajevo

SARAJEVO (R) — U.N. peacekeepers warned on Monday that Pope John Paul's life would be at risk on a Sarajevo visit and accused Muslim forces of deliberately hitting the city's airport with a mortar shell last month.

With the Vatican under pressure to decide whether the 74-year-old Pontiff should go ahead with his visit to the Bosnian capital Thursday, a U.N. official who asked not to be named said: "The Pope's life will be at risk and the lives of those around him will be at risk as well."

The Papal aircraft will land at the airport and he will be exposed to sniper fire in the city which is surrounded by Serb besiegers and defended by the government army.

Informed sources said that Vatican officials could wait until the eve of the visit before making a final announcement.

Pope John Paul was anxious to make his "pilgrimage of peace" provided it did not endanger the local population.

The main obstacle has been the refusal of Bosnian Serbs to guarantee the Pope would not be harmed. Their leader, Radovan Karadzic, told the Vatican he was worried the Muslims might launch an attack and blame Serbs.

His fears were given weight by the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) which blamed Muslims Monday for a deliberate attack with an Israeli-made mortar on Sarajevo Airport on Aug. 18.

"The results of all our investigations show the shell clearly came from (the government) lines," Lieutenant Colonel Pierre Ducros said.

The Bosnian government, embarrassed by the timing of the disclosure, told UNPROFOR it did not accept the finding.

The U.N. stressed the incident "was a direct and intentional targeting of the airport on which Sarajevo's 380,000 population relies for air-lifted relief supplies."

UNPROFOR has said that ultimate responsibility for the safety of the Pope, making potentially the most dangerous trip of his 16-year pontificate, lies with the government.

It reported firing incidents around Sarajevo by both sides over the weekend



A two-year-old Cuban girl is brought aboard the Coast Guard cutter Matincus after her families' raft was picked up in the Florida Straits. The Coast Guard continues to pick up about one thousand Cuban refugees a day (AFP photo)



A United States Coast Guard medic aboard the USCG Cutter Matincus assists a Cuban rafter suffering from dehydration after he was picked up at sea off the Cuban coast (AFP photo)

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together with a major offensive by the Bosnian Serb Army (BSA) against Muslim troops who suffered severe casualties north of the capital near Breza.

Canadian U.N. officers reported the Serbs used artillery during the fighting in defiance of a heavy weapons exclusion zone enforced around the city by UNPROFOR.

"(The Muslims) took a terrible pounding in the last two or three weeks," one officer said. "They are scratching to put up some sort of defence."

The offensive underlined the Bosnian Serb's military superiority over government forces despite the increasing flow of weapons reaching Muslim fighters in recent months.

The Bosnian Serb Army is confident it can retain its advantage for the foreseeable future even if the United States can persuade the U.N. nations to lift its arms embargo against the Muslims.

U.S. President Bill Clinton will ask the Security Council for the embargo's removal unless Bosnian Serbs lift their opposition by Oct. 15 to a big power peace settlement di-

viding Bosnia between them and a Muslim-Croat federation.

Russia, which helped craft the peace agreement, threatened Monday to join Britain and France in withdrawing its troops from UNPROFOR if the embargo was lifted by the U.N. or by the United States acting alone.

Vitaly Churkin, Moscow's mediator in former Yugoslavia, told Interfax News Agency the move would rebound on the Muslims by prompting an escalation of the war.

Serbs in northern Bosnia have stepped up their expulsions of Muslims and Croats from the region since rejecting the big power peace proposal.

Hundreds of Muslim women, children and old people were driven from their homes in Bijeljina and Janja in the north at the weekend to Muslim-held Tuzla.

International Red Cross spokeswoman Lisa Jones said the refugees reported that Serbs intended to empty both places of all Muslims by Sept. 8, the day the Pope is due in Sarajevo.

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Challenge before panel

THE DEBATE that took place Sunday between the chairman and members of the Royal Commission on Modernisation and reform, on the one hand, and representatives of the private sector, on the other, could be just the right medicine for abetting our economic and business atmosphere provided the scope of such discussions is wide and comprehensive enough to touch upon all aspects of development. As His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the chairman of the panel, told the private sector's leaders, "the Commission has been set up to help create a national atmosphere for the adoption of a sound course of action and attitudes with which we can deal with the world community so that our voices can be heard loud and clear and win with us the world's respect." The ultimate objective of this panel is to create a new Jordan, the Regent went on to say, by modernising its ways of conducting business and attaining a comprehensive development programme.

Since the commission is not a substitute for Parliament, its purpose is to advise and consult with the various sectors of the Jordanian society be they private or public with a view to elevating Jordanian methods of work to a much higher plateau that is cost effective, efficient and productive. All of us know only too well how cumbersome and outdated the current ways of conducting business are. Stifling bureaucracy, inefficient and unresponsive civil service, and uncoordinated legislations have effectively suffocated the national political will to modernise the country and put it on par with the most modern countries of the world.

Obviously we are not speaking here of only state-of-the-art mechanical technologies but also the elevation of Jordanian intellectual technologies to the needed level that is commensurate with the national desire to put Jordan on the modern map of the world. In the final analysis the commission is a think-tank and working group of people who are well-versed not only with business and development but also with the other complementary dimensions of progress. It would be in order for the panel to invite other Jordanians drawn from academia, press and the legal profession to their meetings in order to broaden its horizons and assure its success. The new Middle East which is emerging on the heels of the current peace effort calls for modernisation in every sense of the world and across the board. Jordan needs to modernise its educational system, its legal system and its business and developmental legislations and methods of work. The dialogue initiated by the Crown Prince is a good start on which additional steps can be taken to reach our consensus goal of peace with prosperity.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

A COLUMNIST in Al Ra'i daily criticised a government decision to give raises to the secretaries general of ministries, deputies and ministers, saying that such moves can by no means end poverty or unemployment in the country. It seems that the government is intent on handling chronic issues by carrying out cosmetic surgery and treating serious illness through Aspirins, said Sultan Al Hattab. The writer said the whole socio-economic situation in Jordan requires serious debate and immediate solutions at the national level, especially as the country is entering a new stage and a new era of peace. One cannot help feeling that the decision-makers in the Kingdom lack the experience in handling issues of unemployment and all they focus attention on is a way of curtailing expenses and rephrasing job descriptions of government positions, said the writer. He said that decision-makers do not give due attention to the investors' plans for development and for creating new jobs that can end many of the country's economic ills. The government, added the writer, should open its ears to the complaints and adopt practical methods to ease the situation.

ADDRESSING THE world population conference which opened in Cairo Monday, a columnist in Al Dastour said that Third World countries have voiced their condemnation of the conference because they are unhappy about the idea of curtailing the rate of their population growth. But, said the writer Taher Al Adwan, one of these Third World nations, including Arab and Muslim states, gave any thought to UNICEF reports about the daily deaths of Iraqi children as a result of the continued embargo. We are imposing a siege on 18 million Arabs living in Iraq and pushing them to die of hunger and diseases and so we are fulfilling the aims of the very conference which we as Arabs and Muslims are opposing, said the writer. It is ironic to see Arabs and Muslims fighting the idea of curtailing population growth and allowing thousands of Iraqi children to die as a result of sanctions which have caused so much suffering to the innocent population. Stop the real death of Iraqi children and stop involving yourselves in imaginary battles against what has been termed as a U.S.-Zionist conspiracy against the population of the Third World, said the writer. He said that the Arabs and Muslims can terminate the sanctions on Iraq and so contribute to saving millions of lives.

The View from Fourth Circle

Strange bedfellows or natural soulmates?

By Rami G. Khouri

STRANGE BEDFELLOWS, indeed, many people thought upon seeing the Vatican, Egypt's Al Azhar Islamic centre, the Iranian government, and others come together recently to oppose parts of the draft declaration of this week's United Nations Conference on Population and Development in Cairo. This peculiar convergence of Vatican/Islamist views on pre-marital sexual morality, abortion and birth control, however, may be far more than a passing coalition of convenience. It may be an early skirmish and a marker of battle lines in a new global confrontation between the secular and the religious.

The Vatican and the Islamists may turn out to be not so much strange bedfellows, but rather natural soulmates. Their deeply held worldviews may be the cutting edge of a wider global community of people who are instinctively resisting the excesses of Western, predominantly American-driven, materialistic consumerism. In the wake of the cold war and ideological polarisation, we are seeing here aspects of a new world divide that is defined by several overlapping criteria including rich and poor, North and South, individual and communal, religious and secular, material and spiritual.

The folks opposing some parts of the Cairo declaration are not fringe religious freaks. These are the spokesmen of what may be a global moral — but not so silent — majority. When the Vatican, Al Azhar and Iranian leaders spoke in more or less a single voice, many people initially reacted with bemusement. When Saudi Arabia and a few other states skipped or downgraded their representation in the Cairo conference, bemusement turned to more focused attention on the possible political implications and true dimensions of what is going on here.

Late last week, the National Conference of Catholic Bishops in the United States and the American Muslim Council put out a joint statement requesting the Cairo conference to explicitly endorse national policies that help women avoid abortions. What started out as the views of international theological purists suddenly moved closer to the mainstream of American and Western political culture. The question remains: What is this really all about?

The Cairo conference controversy is only superficially about population stabilisation, sex, and fertility choices for women. I suggest that it is really about whose vision of society will triumph in the early decades of the third millennium — a hypermodern, Western, libertarian, individualistic free-for-all market of materialism in which

corporations and their mainly white male elites grow rich because they allow people to buy sex, pizza and lawn furniture by phone from the comfort of their own homes; or, a more traditional, group-oriented society in which the entire community survives and progresses because it nurtures family, tribal and ethnic links and religious values.

It would be foolish to dismiss the Vatican/Islamist axis as the last gasp of the past. In the last decade and a half, Western critics have routinely dismissed reassertive Islamist politics as a combination of feudal romanticism and violence-prone emotionalism. The tendency is to do this again now on the Cairo conference issues, but this becomes more difficult given the fact that the Islamists' partner today is not a collection of bearded, robed, dark skinned radicals from the South, but clean-shaven, robed, mostly white clerics from the Vatican.

The temporary Catholic-Islamist coalition at hand requires a more rational response from the Western mainstream than the dismissive, racist attitudes to Islamist reassertion in recent years. And this is what we are seeing and hearing. The retort to the anti-Cairo crowd is denominated in substantive, often empirical and quantitative facts, often reflecting surveys of the attitudes of Catholics around the world. An interesting precedent is upon us: If the Western political and media mainstream responds to old fashioned Catholic views by making the effort to find out what the people themselves want, can we now expect the West also to respond to the views of Islamist and other Third World political leaderships by also making the effort to find out what the people want? The prospects are intriguing, and there will be many opportunities to see this happen in the future.

While it may not last very long on the strength of the sexual issues being raised in Cairo, the move toward Catholic-Islamist coalition or derivatives of it are likely to reassert themselves frequently, in other forms and other places, in North and South. The handful of states that skipped Cairo or downgraded their representation are, like the conference itself, only symbols; the real issue at hand is the deeper struggle underway between material secularism and a far older and more pervasive concept of community that is most frequently defined and protected by religious values.

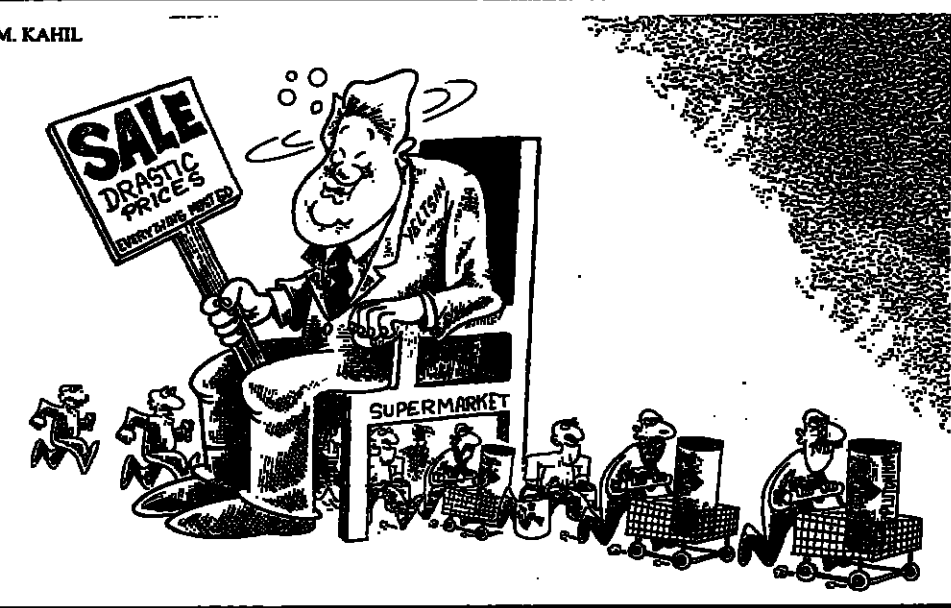
This is happening in North and South alike. We see the continuing strength of the Christian right in American state politics. We heard the Pakistani president last week ask

Islamic states (Islamic, not developing, or brown, or poor, or South states) to pool their energy research in order to face up to anti-Islamic technology embargoes by the West. We heard the former leader of the National Association for the Advancement of Coloured People (NAACP), Benjamin Chavis, speak of his downfall and attempted political recovery as a "crucifixion (and)... a resurrection". The vital role of the church in leading the American civil rights struggle, the anti-apartheid struggle, and other quests for freedom and justice is well chronicled history. And there are many other examples of the important role of religion and spirituality in the current, temporal affairs of society.

Those who feel threatened or marginalised routinely blend religious and political terms in their rhetoric. The critics of the Cairo declaration are unambiguous: a Saudi Arabian columnist said the meeting was "an attempt to tear the values and beliefs of Islam from their roots," while the Muslim World League charged that the conference's draft document propagated licentiousness and discarded religion; a Sudanese government minister said his country's boycott of Cairo was "a kind of holy war against the new hegemony which some seek to impose on us"; the Pope's chief spokesman charged that the Cairo conference risked becoming "a session called to sanction a current life style in minority circles of certain opulent societies," and to impose those values on "the emerging, less developed cultures of our society."

We should not miss the signs of wide and deep discontent that is now being expressed in explicit religious terms by people from the four corners of the globe who believe that religion, politics and society do, indeed, mix, and always have, and always will. Except for the last few hundred years in several dozen novel nation-states astride the North Atlantic rim, all people, in all places, during all recorded time have seen culture/religious values define their societies. It would be simplistic to expect such a time honoured human reality and historical force to suddenly disappear because the pizza delivery man is at the door.

Editor's note: Jordan Times columnist Rami G. Khouri is spending the autumn semester as a visiting scholar at the Global Affairs Institute, Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs, Syracuse University, Syracuse, NY, from where he will continue to write his column on a by-weekly basis.



Swedes catch cold as welfare blanket is pulled away

By Vibeke Laro
Reuter

LINKÖPING, Sweden — In the heartland of Sweden, ordinary people are coming to grips with the idea: that the blanket of state welfare which has kept them warm for decades is slowly being pulled away.

"People waited for Santa Claus. Now they have to participate more actively in solving problems," says Hakon Lofstedt, a Social Democratic Party councillor in this Swedish city 200 km south of Stockholm.

"Before there was the view that the state and the municipality would take care of everything," he added.

The thought of a society without the traditional safety net is slowly beginning to dawn on some Swedes, although its attraction still appears to outweigh its financial cost.

Opinion polls tip the Social Democrats, who promise to retain most of the country's comprehensive welfare state, to defeat a conservative coalition in the general election on September 18.

"The security in this country is so self-evident. I don't think people realise what society would be like if we didn't have it," said self-employed Carina Kalmér, 36.

"There are no guarantees for anything, but people still think society will fix everything," said Ms. Kalmér, who works at a window repair shop in old Linköping, the restored town centre made up of preserved buildings from the 18th and 19th centuries.

Many ordinary Swedes wonder where their country is heading.

"We will have to change our welfare state. It's a scary truth which people don't like to talk about," said a 32-year-old hospital worker.

Gone are the days when the centre-left political par-

ties could be relied on to guarantee full social cover. Even the Social Democrats, architects of the welfare state, say they will trim benefits and raise taxes, a campaign pledge which in most countries would mean political suicide.

"This is the first time politicians are not promising any reforms — quite the opposite. They have said they will cut down," said Birgitta Johansson, chairwoman of the conservative city council.

"It's like a competition — the party which cuts the most wins," said a Linköping taxi driver.

Politicians giving speeches in front of little wooden election huts in the city centre and passing voters agree that the overriding election issue is record high unemployment.

Linköping, bordered by farmland, forests and lakes, has seen its social payouts rocket to \$26 million a year from \$11 million a few years ago, mainly due to the sharp rise in payments of unemployment benefits — about \$13 million worth.

"The building up of the welfare state in the 1950s went too fast, there was one benefit after the other," said Elis Jarhall, a 71-year-old pensioner.

"No one told us we wouldn't be able to afford it," he said.

Paying for the welfare state has left Sweden with a big budget deficit and huge debt supporting a massive social infrastructure — regarded in the 1970s as a global model for social democracy — that still guarantees generous support from birth to death.

Perspective is important in Sweden, where poverty is relative. There are no soup kitchen queues or groups of homeless in Linköping. Sweden's fifth largest city, where the jobless rate is about nine per cent.

However, unemployment is a reality that is creeping into the lives of most people. Linköping, like many

Swedish towns, has a small town feel.

Shops are closing, sales of radios and televisions have dropped, hospitals are cutting staff and people are staying at home rather than taking holidays overseas since the crown fell sharply in value.

"I've been unemployed for a long time, but I feel more sorry for my father who is unemployed. He's 45 years old and it isn't easy to get a job at that age," said 22-year-old Cici Edlund.

Many students at the University of Linköping have given up hope after being bombarded with the number of new jobless every week.

"It's all just about jobs, jobs, jobs. We're constantly being told there aren't enough jobs," said Christian Ericsson, a 29-year-old student. "I don't dare hope for anything."

Apathy has spread to many of the 129,000 population, where the main employers are the state or municipality, the university and its hospital and the automotive and aircraft group Saab-Scania.

Some voters in Linköping, which has swung back and forth between Conservative and socialist local governments in recent elections, said they might vote for the Social Democrats.

They hope the party, which has about half of voter support in opinion polls, would give Sweden the stable, majority government they believe it needs.

Others say there is little difference between the parties.

"I'm blasé. Sweden is in a crisis so things won't get better no matter who wins," said Ann Stern, a 33-year-old mother of three.

"We had a Conservative government after the Social Democrats and that didn't help. It goes in waves. People are disappointed so they may vote for the Social Democrats again."

Russian mafia invades Cyprus

By Michael Jansen

NICOSIA, Cyprus has deported a dozen Russians arrested in August on charges of extortion, conspiracy to commit a criminal offense and illegal possession of arms, and is threatening to expel three more charged in court in June for trying to extort money from a Ukrainian publisher based in Nicosia. Cases against all the accused fell apart when victims refused to sign complaints or testify. The three claimed to be "beyond the law," members of a Russian mafia family. It looks like fear of reprisals has placed them "beyond the law" in Cyprus as well as in their homeland.

These cases have made Cyprus aware of overseas mafia crime which in London and New York emerged as tax and insurance fraud and drug trafficking. So far the mafia has not taken up such activities in Cyprus. Instead, its "enforcers" have come to Cyprus to extend "protection" to Russian offshore businesses established here and mafiosi have come to launder ill-got gains.

The most flagrant money laundering operations have consisted of Russians turning up at off-shore and on-shore banks to deposit suitcases of cash, on occasions totalling \$10-15 million, for transfer to Swiss or other banks outside Cyprus. However, following a tightening of control by the Cyprus Central Bank this sort of activity has fallen off. Instead, mafiosi, acting as legitimate businessmen armed with credentials from legitimate banks in Russia, establish legitimate offshore firms in Cyprus and launder illegitimate profits by opening letters of credit and concluding fictional deals through which they can inject funds into the international banking system.

Both these activities are worthwhile because Cyprus has, in the past three years, become a major offshore business and banking centre for Eastern Europe.

Since the collapse of the Soviet system and the conversion of Russia and the countries of Eastern Europe to capitalism, businessmen from these countries have poured into Cyprus. During 1993 more than half of the 2,892 new registrations of offshore companies were East European, the majority Russian. Four of the 23 offshore banks operating here are Russian and five of the seven banks which have opened representative offices are Russian.

Cyprus developed as an offshore business centre after the adoption in 1975 of a

law taxing at a rate of 4.25 per cent company profits. Lebanese and foreign businessmen driven out of Beirut by the civil war, which began that year, promptly took advantage of the island tax haven only a half an hour from home-base. Many foreign firms established regional bases here to exploit booming markets in the oil rich Gulf state. By 1983 foreign exchange revenue from the offshore sector had risen to \$40 million and today revenue stands at \$240 million, contributing more than agriculture and rivaling tourism.

Eastern Europe entered the Cypriot offshore sector in the late eighties, just as Middle Eastern business was withdrawing as a result of a regional slump. Sophocles Michaelides, director of the offshore Banking Unit at the Cyprus Central Bank, said that Eastern Europe has more than made up for the loss of Middle East business. "The money involved is much bigger, the companies involved are much bigger and the volume of trade is much bigger. Eventually Cyprus will be to Russia what the Channel Islands are to Britain" as an offshore business and banking centre.

The Russians are coming here for several reasons, he asserted. Russia and Cyprus have a very advantageous tax treaty. Russians are looking for a free market and a means of avoiding exchange controls in doing business on the international scene. They can use the island's efficient banking facilities, its communications networks and enjoy the professional service of Russian-speaking Cypriots, educated in the former Soviet Union. Furthermore, the cost of operating from Cyprus compares favourably with other offshore centres. Cyprus, located at the eastern edge of Europe, is close to the former Soviet bloc; it is Orthodox by religion as are Russians, Bulgarians and Serbs, and Russians, hailing from the cold north, enjoy the island's sea and sun and Mediterranean style of life.

Positive proof of this final attraction is that Russian tourist arrivals have risen to 4,000 a week. To accommodate this flood, the Cyprus government, in May, increased the number of cheap charter flights and package holidays in hotels with Russian-speaking staff.

Since virtually all Russian businesses have some sort of mafia protection at home, it is not surprising that the mafia should follow them to Cyprus and that there should be complaints to the police and arrests of mafia "enforcers" trying to

extend the influence of the mafia families to overseas Russian enterprises. These "enforcers" are much easier for the Cypriot authorities to identify and deal with than are the money launderers. Legitimate businesses and banks, affiliated with the Russian central bank, are easily established by the mafia in Russia because there are no efficient and effective regulatory bodies. (According to the U.S. Federal Bureau of Investigation, which has established an office in Moscow to monitor the mafia, 40 out of 260 banks there are mafia owned). And once a business applying to register in Cyprus has been given clearance by the Russian central bank, the Cypriot authorities are obligated to accept its credentials.

Although an agent of Russia's Federal Counterintelligence Service, the former KGB, told a local businessman, "Cyprus is the mafia's major centre for money laundering," the Russians have not provided the Cyprus police with evidence to prove this allegation. And, the authorities here, who carefully examine the books of every offshore enterprise, contend that the volume of business done by Russian offshore companies would not support that allegation. An informed source said Cyprus was probably being used to launder "small change" only, considering the volume of profits generated by mafia activities in Russia and Eastern Europe. The majority of Russians operating from Cyprus are not money launderers but legitimate businessmen although they may be, increasingly, plagued by the mafia "enforcers."

There are an estimated 5,500 Russian mafia groupings, many of them based on ethnic ties — Ukrainian, Georgian, Tchetchen and Vietnamese. But experts believe that three or four men, all Russians, dominate the entire organised crime scene. The major groups are functional, rather than geographic. They control protection for specific business activities rather than regions. Protection is based on a fixed percentage of turn-over. The organisation is so secretive that minor bosses and "enforcers" may not even know to which vertical structure their grouping may belong. This formidable underground has flourished in Russia and neighbouring countries because of corruption, the collapse of the moral fibre of the society and a bewildering array of rules and regulations governing business activity.

Economy

Washington's Asian policy faces new economic realities

WASHINGTON (UPI) — The U.S. government's policy of a high-powered trade mission to China last week, a major U.S. utility that expects to sign \$2 billion worth of contracts in China, said he has never seen the U.S. government and business work so closely together in developing overseas export markets, particularly in Asia.

"The United States government is an extremely effective partner and advocate for the United States business community," said Mr. Bryson, also a member of the delegation. "We are very pleased by the leadership provided by the commerce secretary."

Mr. Brown said that for the first time in its history, the United States has developed an export policy that will actively use America's political power and diplomacy to win contracts for its companies overseas.

"This is a new partnership

mission to China last week, John Bryson, chairman of Southern California Edison Co., a major U.S. utility that expects to sign \$2 billion worth of contracts in China, said he has never seen the U.S. government and business work so closely together in developing overseas export markets, particularly in Asia.

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"This is a new partnership

Those who assumed our role within the Chinese market would almost certainly be less concerned than we would be about issues such as human rights," he said.

Delegation members said the United States had also been falling behind European countries, particularly Germany, France and Britain, because of the soft loans or aid they provide to Asian countries tied to projects involving companies from their respective countries.

Mr. Brown said the United States export bank is taking a new aggressive approach in linking development loans and grants to projects involving American companies.

"We will use all the fair and legitimate tools at our disposal to ensure that we win the market share that we expect in China, in Hong Kong, in Asia and around the world," Mr. Brown said.

China's economic superno could barely sleep from high inflation

BEIJING (R) — China's inflation last month was over 20 per cent, an official newspaper reported Monday — and the country's economic superno was quoted as saying he could barely sleep from worrying about price rises.

The China Information daily called the August figure for annual inflation intolerable for some people.

It did not say whether it was referring to the retail price index in major cities or the residents' consumer price index for the whole country.

Inflation in major cities in July stood at an annual 24.2 per cent and for the whole country in June was 20 per cent.

practically cannot sleep," Zhu Rongji, vice-premier in charge of the economy, was quoted by Hua Gong newspaper as saying in a speech last month.

"Annual inflation for the whole year is likely to be 20 per cent, more than double the official target," said one Japanese economist, speaking of the major cities index.

"The best way to cut inflation is to reduce the money supply but this immediately affects state firms, many of which live off bank loans. This is a very unpopular policy. It is very hard to strike the right balance between inflation and unemployment," he said.

Li Jingwen, head of the economics department of the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, painted three scenarios for 1994 in an article in Saturday's Science and Technology daily.

The most favourable was for GDP growth of 10-11 per cent and inflation of 15 per cent.

The second envisaged GDP growth of 13 per cent and inflation of about 20 per cent, forcing the government to impose a strict deflation policy and curtail many of its reform policies.

Mr. Li said the worst case was GDP growth of less than 10 per cent, inflation of 20 per cent, a sharp rise in unemployment, a drop in living standards and stagflation, which would also lead to a halt in many reforms.

While the likelihood of the second and third scenarios was low, he said, the risk remained.

Fresh in the mind of policymakers is the last serious

bout of inflation, which peaked at an annual 18.5 per cent in 1988, then a post-1949 record.

A fierce deflationary policy cut it to 2.9 per cent in 1990 but slowed growth sharply and threw millions out of work.

The Japanese economist said the leadership wanted a "soft landing" this time but that looked increasingly difficult.

Inflation especially hurts retired people or workers in loss-making state firms. Tens of thousands have been sent home from such firms and are being paid a subsistence wage of as little as 100 yuan (\$11.60) a month.

Many ordinary Chinese believe Beijing has lost the ability to control inflation because it has turned over so much of the economy to market forces which ignore government orders.

"The government issues price ceilings but shops ignore them," one factory worker said. "People buy fewer and fewer goods in state shops, where prices can be controlled, because the quantity and quality of their goods is shrinking."

"But the government need not fear street protests. We learnt our lesson after 1989. You complain with your friends and family but take it no further," he said.

In June 1989 student protests caused in part by inflation were crushed by the military.

Chile sees trade pact with U.S. in a year or two

SANTIAGO (R) — Chile's Finance Minister said Sunday he hoped his country could sign a free trade accord with the United States in two years that would revolutionize the Chilean financial system.

"When Chile has a bilateral accord signed with the United States and eventually with Mexico and Canada, there will be a revolution in the national financial system," said Finance Minister Eduardo Aninat.

"I hope this happens in a year or two, at most," he said in an interview published Sunday in the Santiago daily El Mercurio.

He said Vice President Al Gore called him last month to confirm to him that Chile was next in line to join the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA).

"He gave us an optimistic vision, that things were going well," said Mr. Aninat, referring to the possibility of Chile joining NAFTA.

Chilean and U.S. officials have still not officially decided whether to make Chile the fourth partner in NAFTA or seek separate bilateral pacts between Chile and NAFTA's three current members.

Most analysts see both sides leaning toward NAFTA, although a decision is not expected until later this month.

Brazil scandal boosts chances of Mexican to head world trade body

GENEVA (R) — A political scandal in Brazil has strongly boosted the chances that Mexican President Carlos Salinas de Gortari will become head of the new World Trade Organisation (WTO), diplomats and analysts said Monday.

Brazilian Economy Minister Rubens Ricupero, who resigned at the weekend, was widely seen as the main rival to Mr. Salinas for leadership of the WTO, due to come into being next year under the GATT trade treaty signed in April.

"I cannot see Ricupero remaining seriously in the race after this affair," said one trade envoy whose country had favoured the Brazilian, a widely-respected former ambassador to GATT, the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade.

An experienced GATT-watcher said Mr. Ricupero's admission that he had bad financial figures to boost the presidential election campaign of his ministerial predecessor Fernando Henrique Cardoso "must at best spoil his chances for the WTO."

Mr. Salinas, who already has the implicit backing of the United States and many Latin American countries to become the first head of a world trade body from a developing country, was already viewed as the front-runner for the post.

Many trade officials and diplomats say that his record as a president who ditched the protectionist policies of decades and turned Mexico into an open economy would help give political weight to the fledgling WTO.

They point to the role of Mr. Salinas, who steps down later this year, in establishing the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) which links his country with the United States and Canada — unthinkable under previous Mexican administrations.

GATT chief Peter Sutherland, who has said he does not want the job, gave Mr. Salinas an effective plug last week by praising Mexico for becoming the first NAFTA country — and only the third GATT member — to complete legal approval of the

WTO.

The new body, if the treaty signed by over 100 countries in Marrakesh, Morocco, in April is ratified by the major trading powers, will absorb the GATT — set up as a temporary body in 1948.

Mr. Ricupero supporters had argued that his intimate knowledge of the workings of international trade and the links between trade and environment which will be a key issue for the new body made him better prepared to give it a quick start-up.

If the Brazilian, whose fateful remarks were delivered as an aside before a television interview, does withdraw, Mr. Salinas will still face stiff competition from two other declared candidates — with dark horses perhaps waiting in the wings.

The European Union is expected to endorse the candidature of former Italian trade minister Renato Ruggiero, although there is little sign that he has much support among other countries in the 125-member GATT outside Europe.

But trade diplomats and officials say that during the summer backing appears to have increased for South Korea's Trade Minister Kim Chul Su who has spent his entire career in trade posts and visited Geneva to lobby support in July.

Mr. Kim has the support of Australia and is expected to win formal endorsement from most if not all members of the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) and could garner backing elsewhere in Asia.

A possible compromise in case of deadlock in the selection process, from which a consensus candidate is expected to emerge in November after consultations among GATT members, is New Zealand's Trade Negotiations Minister Philip Burdon.

But a strong challenger could come from Sweden where Prime Minister Carl Bildt — a proponent of free trade and open markets — faces possible defeat in an election next month and may be looking for an international post, diplomats say.

Turkey draws up new sell-off strategy

ANKARA (R) — After several false starts, Turkish Prime Minister Tansu Ciller's government has drawn up a new privatisation strategy which officials expect it to be submitted to parliament by the end of next week.

The government is now awaiting comments from the political parties before putting the final touches on the draft bill, officials said Monday.

Two earlier laws, approved by parliament, were annulled by the constitutional court after opposition deputies and even some from Ms. Ciller's coalition partners challenged the measures as illegal.

After the past failures, Ms. Ciller is now seeking a mandate for the delayed eight-year-old sell-off programme — a key part of her economic plan.

Under the new draft, shaped after a series of inter-party debates last month, Turkey will give priority to the sale of state banks, accounting for nearly half of the banking system.

It proposes creation of a privatisation undersecretariat and a safety net for employees who may lose their jobs as well as introduction of an anti-cartel law.

Turkey will also maintain a "golden share" in some firms in strategic sectors, including energy, telecommunications and defence. It will sell the right to operate mines rather than outright ownership.

The government will create a privatisation fund to prevent use of the proceeds to finance huge budget deficits.

A high board of privatisation, to consist of the prime minister and three other key

ministers, is to be in charge of choosing the firms to be privatised or closed down.

Privatisation officials said the draft could be further changed in line with criticism from the political parties.

"But I don't expect any major changes. I hope the draft will receive parliament's approval this month," a senior official said. "Then, we will be mobilised to sell shares in Turkey and abroad."

He said Turkey would offer shares on domestic and foreign capital markets as well as selling in blocks. "We don't have too many choices. We have to use all present sale mechanisms."

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A source of inspiration

DAJANI'S

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In Amman: Amra Hotel Shops. 6th. Circle

THE BETTER HALF.

By Glasbergen

"I need to burn more calories. I'll have to start changing channels faster!"

JUMBLE.

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

Unscramble these four jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

POCUR
RALNS
BALLEF
HIRTED

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, suggested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here:

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: LISLE SIEGE DINGHY WHALER
Answer: What the law made the crooked butcher see the error of—HIS WEIGHTS

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 6, 1994
By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righier Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Forget the old and what has been recently frustrating as you focus your attention on investigating any sort of new interest that will provide you with more worldly understanding and awareness.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Forget about arguing with others because your ideas are different. Forget your promises. Do nothing to upset your position of security.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Complete the work at hand before going into a new interest which could take more time than you anticipated. Be conscientious.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Use your good judgment; your hunches could be unreliable today. Steer clear of arguments, and avoid being social tonight.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Don't permit household matters to deter you from making progress possible. Don't lay into your mate over something trivial.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Concentrate on important routines now and handle communications tomorrow. Think very constructively and logically.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Try to meet the wishes of family as much as possible and avoid any new financial commitments. Don't argue with someone in business.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) If you get into a family argument, you can carry through very nicely with affairs at hand. Don't overspend for pleasure. Be sensible.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Get busy at being constructive and stop worrying over something you can do little about. Don't lay into family over something small.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Contact experts and find out how to add to your income. Take care while driving on the highway. Relax tonight with your loved ones.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Exercise care in the handling of finances now, or you could make expensive errors. Be more concerned with personal matters.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Collect as much data confidentially as you can in order to formulate a plan. Avoid a group affair where arguments could start. Be happy.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) This is a good day for communicating and improving conditions around you. Don't irritate a fellow associate. Forget your worries.

Birthstone of September: Sapphire — Lapis Lazuli

THE Daily Crossword

by Roger Coburn

ACROSS

1 Food

2 Eccentric wheels

3 Quare

13 Town on the coast

14 Kind of fund

15 Acting award

16 Airing

17 Bathroom dance

18 Chamberlain

19 Astring

21 Buyer

22 Holds up

24 Side dish

25 Fraudulent

26 Renegade

27 Jungfrau, a g

31 General drill

34 Indonesian island

36 Very funny guy

38 Actress Day

40 Study carefully

41 — Irish Rose

43 Loafer

45 Prescription letters

46 Almet

48 Mediterranean ship

50 Modena moolah

51 Hold back

52 Randolph and Sir Walter

55 Surrenderance

58 Native dance

60 Gussy up

62 Theaters

63 Car's eye

64 Lugs

65 Enlarge

66 Unit of force

67 So course

68 Art movement

7 Food enhancer

8 Move snow

9 City km

10 Footnote abbr.

11 Do office work

12 Celebration

14 Sheltered, as a horse

20 Lovers

22 Bridge seat

24 Rank

25 Spanish measure

27 Turn

28 Phrasia

29 As the harm

30 Architecture style

38 Unwarranted sound

39 Ono team

40 Smug

41 Church officers

42 Angry mood

44 Enjoy a book

47 Substitute

48 Proverb

51 French philosopher

52 Lac terna horses

53 Duplicate

54 Algeen port

55 — seed (grammatical)

56 Nolon

57 Be in row

58 Dab

61 Yabba dabba —

Fluff'n'Jeff

VERY STRANGE... SOMEBODY SPILLED BIRDS ALL OVER THE YARD...

SORRY, I ONLY GIVE TO AN ORGANIZED CHARITY

MY EARS ARE BURNING...

YAH DELI MAU... UNKANO NANCY UNFA CUE ETT-TEE HEE

MUTT, YOU BEAST, YOU'RE TALKING IN YOUR SLEEP!

WHAT WAS I TALKING ABOUT?

I'M NOT TALKING TO YOU!

O.K., GO AHEAD—KEEP MY SECRETS FROM ME!

Financial Markets

in comparison with Cairo Amman

U.S. Dollar in International Markets

| Country | Value |
|---------|--------|
| Canada | 1.36 |
| France | 6.55 |
| Germany | 1.36 |
| Italy | 1.36 |
| Japan | 136.00 |
| UK | 0.79 |
| US | 1.00 |

General Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate

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|---------|--------|
| Canada | 1.36 |
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Other Currencies

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IOC takes new steps to combat doping in sport

PARIS (R) — The International Olympic Committee (IOC) intensified the fight against doping in sport Monday by adopting clear guidelines to athletes and federations in a long-awaited and far-reaching medical code.

The code lists all banned substances as well as acceptable medications and lays down standard penalties for offenders in a 78-page document which IOC medical chief Prince Alexandre de Merode described as a "cornerstone" of the doping battle.

De Merode also moved to clear up other confused areas of doping in sport by pledging urgent talks to stop what he called "intolerable" situa-

tions affecting athletes, including the case of Spanish Tour de France champion Miguel Indurain and British runner Diane Modahl.

De Merode said talks would be held with governments in an effort to get them to accept the IOC banned drugs list and not to enforce different standards.

Indurain faces a hearing in France this week for taking salbutamol during a cycle race in May even though he took it through an inhaler for a respiratory problem, a treatment allowed by the IOC and the International Cycling Union (UCI).

But salbutamol is totally banned under a tough French

law to combat doping in sport.

"It's ridiculous to think that athletes must have a dictionary of doping laws before going into every single country to compete," de Merode told a news conference. "It's intolerable."

Modahl's case, where there was a nine-week delay in reporting the findings of a positive a, or first sample, of a dope test, was also unacceptable, he said.

De Merode said the IOC would put pressure on accredited laboratories to speed up their processes and would also talk with international federations on ways to avoid such delays.

IAAF concede Britain athletes 'legally not incorrect' to run

LONDON (R) — The International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF) appeared to ease the pressure on Britain's women competing in this weekend's World Cup when General Secretary Sir Ivan Gyalai conceded Monday they were "legally not incorrect" to take part.

The team's participation was thrown into doubt by Diane Modahl's positive doping result in Portugal, but the British Athletic Federation announced last week they intended to compete.

"I have chosen my words carefully after studying the legal situation during the weekend," said Gyalai, speaking from the federa-

tion's headquarters in Monte Carlo.

"Regrettably for Britain, the end result may still be the same, that is they will have their results annulled. But they are not incorrect to compete."

British team spokesman Tony Ward said, "I am very pleased the IAAF have changed their attitude and now seem to be agreeing with what we have been saying all along."

Gyalai's statement is a departure from the IAAF's more hardline approach last week when they insisted, both publicly and privately, that the British team should be withdrawn from the com-

petition.

Britain's participation was jeopardised after 800 metre runner Modahl tested positively for testosterone in Lisbon on June 18, a week before earning maximum points for Britain in the European Cup.

The results of that test were not known until nine weeks later. The "B" test sample produced a second positive result on Aug. 30 and Gyalai's statement on Monday was based on those two dates.

"At the present time, and until she is banned following a hearing, her suspension dates from Aug. 30, the date of the second test."

Asian Games organisers work to end Chinese boycott threat

TOKYO (R) — Asian Games organisers Monday asked the head of the Olympic Council of Asia (OCA) to let them know which heads of state he has invited to the event as a disastrous Chinese boycott of the games looms closer.

The invitation issue involving OCA President Ahmad Al Fahad of Kuwait has turned into a diplomatic and security nightmare for Japanese officials for the games which open on Oct. 2 in Hiroshima.

The main worry is an OCA invitation issued to Taiwan President Lee Teng-hui which has led China, the Asian Games champions since 1986, to threaten to boycott the games.

"We are urging the OCA

headquarters in Kuwait to send a list of OCA president-invited guests. But we have not received any answer from the OCA," said a Hiroshima Asian Games official.

In Kuwait, an OCA official said Ahmad was out of the country until next weekend and had no comment on the row.

A record 7,300 athletes and officials from 42 nations are due to take part in the quadrennial sports event from Oct. 2 to 16, competing in 337 events in 34 sports.

The OCA is the sponsor of the games and Hiroshima organisers are worried time is running out to put the finishing touches on staging Asia's biggest sporting event because of uncertainty about China's participation.

Japanese security officials are worried that with less than a month until the games they do not know how many major guests they will need to protect.

"The invitation to Lee was made by the OCA president without consulting with us. So far, we have not heard (from the OCA) of any other heads of states being invited to attend the games," the official said.

Games officials are mystified why the OCA president would invite only one Asian head of state.

They are even more mystified, and some officials even angered, at why a group like the OCA which is charged with overseeing sport in Asia would be so unaware of the sensitivity of the China-Taiwan issue.



ROMARIO LOSES: Barcelona's Brazilian match Sunday. Gijon defeated Barcelona 2-1 soccer star Romario (right) dribbles Sporting de Gijon's David during their Spanish league

France shun Paris to heal Bulgarian trauma

Agencies

FRANCE'S Soccer team embark on a crucial international campaign in Slovakia this week, hoping to heal a string of traumas by qualifying for the 1996 European Championship in Britain.

Their first match in qualifying Group One, on Wednesday in Bratislava, will also be the first official tie for manager Aime Jacquet, who replaced Gerard Houllier in the wake of the biggest trauma of all — France's 3-2 defeat by Bulgaria in Paris last November which stopped them reaching the World Cup finals.

The shock was such that Jacquet, who claims an unbeaten record of five games since he took over last December, said his team would not play at the Parc des Princes for the time being to avoid the hostility of Parisian fans.

"After the hard blow we suffered in Paris against Bulgaria, we cannot have France playing there again soon. The trauma is too deep," he told French daily Liberation.

"We'll get more support from a provincial crowd for a while," he added.

For that reason, France have decided to host Romania in St. Etienne next month in their second qualifier.

Players confirmed the pain was not erased yet.

"I know that the defeat (by Bulgaria) will haunt me for the rest of my life," defender Paul Le Guen said.

For Jacquet, who will have to do without injured stars Marcel Desailly and Jean-Pierre Papin on Wednesday, leading France to the European Championship finals is a must.

The Bulgaria defeat, however spectacular, was but the climax of a string of poor results in official competition.

Since playing the semifinals in the 1986 World Cup, the French have only made it to one official team competi-

tion finals, the 1992 European Championship in Sweden, in which their poor showing led national legend Michel Platini to resign.

"My only goal is to lead this team to the European Championship in England. If I make it, I'll be the happiest man on earth," Jacquet said.

"The Euro 96 is a springboard for the 1998 World Cup. We need to go to England to smell the flavour of high-level competition ahead of 1998."

In 1998, France will host the World Cup finals and for once will not have to go through the qualifying stages. But they are keen to prove in the meantime that they can make it to the top the hard way.

Croatia 2, Estonia 0

Opening the qualifying matches of the European championships, Croatia made a triumphant debut Sunday in its first-ever major qualifying tournament, overpowering Estonia 2-0.

Davor Suker scored both goals in the one-sided match of Group Four teams.

The Sevilla striker drove in the first goal just a minute before halftime. Midway through the second half, he dashed an Estonian hopes for a draw when he weaved past defenders and tapped the ball past goalie Mart Poom.

Only a series of impressive saves by Poom kept Croatia from running up the score in the game, played in front of a sparse crowd.

Croatian players represented Yugoslavia, since splintered, in past international soccer competitions.

Estonia played in the European Championships before World War II, but Sunday's match was the country's first since regaining independence from the Soviet Union in 1991.

Israel 2, Poland 1
Ronon Harazi scored twice

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Cowboys open NFL season with win

PITTSBURGH, Pennsylvania (AFP) — New coach. Same results.

Two-time defending Super champion answered any doubts about how they would perform under new coach Barry Switzer, giving Jimmy Johnson's replacement a 26-9 victory over Pittsburgh here Sunday on the opening day of the National Football League (NFL) season.

"We knew there would probably be hell to pay if we didn't win," running back Emmitt Smith said. "Despite all the distractions, we're a team that is very determined. The Cowboys are fine. Just leave us alone and quit trying to tear us apart."

Smith, NFL rushing champion the past three years, ran for 171 yards and a touchdown against the Steelers. Quarterback Troy Aikman directed Dallas to scores on their first four drives and the Cowboys took their first step toward a third Super Bowl title next January in Miami.

"We're going to do it," receiving Alvin Harper said. "We're going to take it all the way to Miami."

Switzer, who was retired for five years before making Dallas his first NFL assignment, downplayed his role.

"The cowboys win because they're a team and I have better players than Jimmy started out here with," Switzer said.

Johnson was watching on television as part of the commentary team for the Fox network. The billion-dollar TV deal by Australian-born Rupert Murdoch was well received by most accounts.

The Dallas game was also noteworthy for having a fan rush onto the field and evade several policemen before falling to the ground where he was handcuffed and arrested before a national television audience.

William Thompson was charged with disorderly conduct and defiant trespass after rushing onto the field and shaking hands with two Dal-

las players late in the fourth quarter.

Top playmakers opened the season with exciting efforts. Joe Montana, who guided San Francisco to three Super Bowl titles, threw two touchdowns to spark Kansas City past New Orleans 30-17. Montana completed 24 of 33 passes for 315 yards.

Miami's Dan Marino suffered a torn Achilles tendon and missed the final 11 games of last season but returned with the second-largest passing game of his career. Marino completed 23 of 42 passes for 473 yards and five touchdowns as the Dolphins rallied to beat New England 39-35.

"I don't have to prove anything to anybody," Marino said. "I've been playing in this league for 12 years."

The biggest surprise came in Indianapolis, where rookie rusher Marshall Faulk gained 174 yards and scored three touchdowns for the Colts in a 45-21 rout of Houston. He rushed for 143 yards and scored on runs of 1, 2 and 11 yards. He also gave the Colts their first opening-quarter touchdown since 1992.

Buffalo, which lost the past four Super Bowls, showed poor form in a 23-3 home loss to the New York Jets. They had not lost an opener since 1987 and had won 12 of their past 13 games against the Jets.

Jason Hanson's 37-yard field goal in over-time lifted Detroit past Atlanta 31-28. Scott Mitchell's 15-yard touchdown pass to Anthony Carter with 30 seconds remaining in regulation forced the extra session. Mitchell and Atlanta's Jeff George each threw three touchdowns passes.

In other games, Arizona edged the Los Angeles Rams 14-12. Cleveland beat Cincinnati 28-20. Seattle dumped Washington 28-7. Chicago beat Tampa Bay 21-9. Green Bay edged Minnesota 16-10 and the New York Giants tripped Philadelphia 28-23.

Le Jingyi smashes record at world championships

ROME (AP) — Chinas Le Jingyi made a stunning start to the swim events at the World Championships Monday when she sliced almost half a second off the world record for the women's 100 metres freestyle.

With record holder Jenny Thompson swimming in the next lane, Le was first into the pool in the final and had the race won by halfway as she powered to the gold medal in 54.01 seconds.

Another Chinese swimmer, Lu Bin, also beat Thompson's two-year-old mark of 54.48 to finish second with Germany's Fran-

zi Van Almsick winning the bronze in 54.77.

Thompson, who broke her arm in May but has since returned to form, finished fourth in 55.16 but found her record had been broken by 0.47.

"I'm a bit tense," Le said after her swim. "To finish in 54.01 that is a new world record is like a dream come true."

Le, who was fastest qualifier, led the field almost as soon as she hit the water and reached the turn in 52.79, half a body length ahead of her countrywoman.

Colourful Christie rebounds

SHEFFIELD, England (AP) — Linford Christie, wearing an outfit that featured some of his press clippings, broke his three-race losing streak Sunday with a victory in the rarely-run 150 metres at the Sheffield International Meet.

Christie, world and Olympic 100-metre champion, out-sprinted fellow Briton and world 200-metre silver medalist John Regis to come home in 14.97 seconds, Regis clocked 15.15.

"Although I have lost three races, I have still won the championship medals and that's what really matters," said Christie, who was second to American Dennis Mitchell in the 100 at the Grand Prix final in Paris Saturday.

Jan Zelezny, who broke the world javelin record here last year, overcame the damp conditions to win the event again with a throw of 91.82 meters, the longest in the world this year.

The Sheffield meet is the traditional welcome-home event for British athletes at the end of the Grand Prix season, and Christie often uses the occasion to wear his most flamboyant outfits. "It breaks up the monotony," said Christie, sporting the white suit with newspaper headlines such as "True Brit." "People come to this meeting to see what I am wearing and I like to give them something different."

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SOME SAIL, TEXT, TO SIGHT & SOUND

Israel 2, Poland 1
Ronon Harazi scored twice

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ARABIC FOR SPEAKERS OF OTHER LANGUAGES

The Language Centre at the University of Jordan announces that the intensive Course in Modern Standard Arabic for Speakers of Other Languages will commence on September 17, 1994 and will last for 16 weeks. The programme is intensive. (Classes are in the morning and meet for 20 hours per week, Saturday - Wednesday).

Those interested please call at the Language Centre for registration or further information. Registration begins Saturday, Sept. 10, 1994.

Unser wins in Va Mansell, Fittipaldi

VANCOUVER, British Columbia (R) — A. Unser Jr. won the weekend's race and finished in the winner's circle late Sunday. Nigel Mansell and Michael Schumacher crashed with Brazilian Emerson Fittipaldi at the Vancouver Indy Car.

Suffering from a head injury, Unser was slow to start the race but managed to move into the lead late in the race. He was leading when Mansell and Schumacher crashed into him.

On Sunday, he survived the numerous crashes, spins and flat tires that plagued everyone else and showed the average speed of 100.4 miles per hour for the 100-lap race.

"We're pretty much in the lead," said Unser, celebrating his third straight victory. "I'm not sure if I can win this year and I'll be happy to win this one."

For Unser, the victory was a relief. He had been in the hospital for two days and was unable to drive for the first two races of the season.

The British driver, who is 28, had a bad crash in the first race of the season. He was in the hospital for two days and was unable to drive for the first two races of the season.

Mansell, the defending series champion, was in the hospital for two days and was unable to drive for the first two races of the season. He was in the hospital for two days and was unable to drive for the first two races of the season.

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ys open NFL with win

las players late in the
quarter.
Top playmakers open
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Super Bowl titles, threw
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City past New Orleans 30-17.
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smashes record championships

zi Van Almsick winning the
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Colourful Christie rebounds

SHEFFIELD, England (AP) —
Lindford Christie, wearing
an outfit that featured some
of his press clippings, broke
his three-race losing streak
Sunday with a victory in the
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Christie, world and Olympic
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them something different."

Unser wins in Vancouver Mansell, Fittipaldi crash

VANCOUVER, British Colum-
bia (R) — Al Unser Jr.
started the weekend in bed
and finished in the winner's
circle late Sunday, as Brit-
ain's Nigel Mansell survived
a crash with Brazil's Emerson
Fittipaldi at the Vancouver
Indy Car.
Suffering from food
poisoning, Unser was too
weak to attempt qualification
Friday and was barely able to
climb into his Penske Ilmor
Saturday.
On Sunday he survived the
numerous crashes, spins and
flat tires that plagued every-
one else and slowed the aver-
age speed to 89.166 miles-
per-hour for the 102-lap race.
"We're pretty sure inside,
but winning makes you feel
better," said Unser, celebrat-
ing his third straight victory,
eighth this year and 27th in
his Indy car career.
Pole sitter Robby Gordon,
forced to make extra pit stops
caused by two flat tires and
the loss of a third gear, fin-
ished 2.239 seconds behind
Unser.
The brakes on Michael
Andretti's Reynard Ford
Cosworth kept locking up,
causing him to bump into
Canadian Paul Tracy and
others, but he survived to
finish third.
Mansell, the defending
series champion who is win-
less this year, appeared in top
form, leading from lap 37
until his final pit stop on lap
75.
The Briton fell to sixth and
was challenging Fittipaldi for
third on the final lap, when
they crashed in the last turn.
Fittipaldi was credited with
ninth and Mansell tenth.
Unser took on the lead on
lap 77, running a very con-
servative race. "We watched
everybody crash into each
other," he said, adding that
his team owner Roger Penske
coached him on the radio.
"Roger called a perfect
race," Unser said. "He told
me when to pit and when
not to pit."
With three races remaining
in the series, Unser has a
commanding 56-point lead
over Fittipaldi, 193-137.
Mansell's bid to break a
yearlong victory drought en-
ded with a typical crash
with his friend Fittipaldi, a
two-time world champion.
Early in the race, the 41-
year-old Mansell shadowed
leader Gordon and took
advantage of his foe's punc-
tured tire to take the lead,
which he continued to hold
until his second and final pit
stop.
"We hit the yellows (cau-
tion flags) wrong all day to-
day," said Mansell, who slip-
ped to sixth place after a
poorly-timed pit stop.
"It was a strange race,"
team manager Jim McGee
explained. "We tried to do
the fuel right, but the yellows
fell wrong. By all rights, the
guys in front of Nigel at the
end should have been run-
ning out of fuel, but the
yellows helped them all."
The day turned from bad
to worse in the last turn of
the last lap. Mansell had climbed
back to fourth and was chal-
lenging Fittipaldi for third,
when he hit the Brazilian
from behind.
"A champion like Nigel
shouldn't do that," Fittipaldi
said. "He tried to stop his car
with my car. It's a shame."
The last corner of the last lap,
and Nigel came like a torpe-
do. And there was no car
room between my car and the
wall," he said.

Morocco lose as World Cup hangover continues

JOHANNESBURG (R) —
Morocco's World Cup han-
gover continued on a
weekend of surprise results at
the start of the African Na-
tions Cup qualifying cam-
paign.
The North African team,
who lost all three of their
matches at the World Cup,
were beaten again in their
first qualifying match for the
1996 nations cup finals in
Kenya.
They were among several
group favourites to drop
points against unfancied
opposition.
The Moroccans, who were
the only one of Africa's World
Cup representatives playing
Sunday, surrendered a half-
time lead to go down 2-1
Burkina Faso in their Group
Seven match in Ouagadougou.
Abdoulaye Ouedraogo and
Abou Ouattara scored in the
second half for the home side
after Taher El Khalef had put
Morocco ahead after 30 min-
utes.
The Burkina were not the
only surprise package as the
Gambia, Mauritania and
Ethiopia also upset the odds.
The Gambia, only occa-
sional participants in African
soccer tournaments, won an
unlikely point away from
home in holding Congo to a
1-1 draw in their group three
match in Pointe-Noire.
Peter Johnson scored in the
38th minute for Gambia
before Ivorian-based mid-
fielder Sylvain Mounkassa
salvaged a point for Congo with
a 68th-minute goal.
Mauritania also surprised
by forcing a goalless draw in
Senegal in Group Two while
Ethiopia held off a confident
Algerian team in another
scoreless tie in Group Four.
There were also good wins
for Ghana, South Africa,
Tunisia and Zimbabwe.
The new-look Ghanaian
team beat Sierra Leone 4-1 in
Accra to top the standings in
Group Three while South
Africa ended Madagascar's
10-year unbeaten home re-
cord with a 1-0 win in Group
Five in Antananarivo.
The game's only goal was a
header from Leeds United
striker Phil Masinga in the
21st minute.
Tunisia, seeking to make
up for the disappointment of
their performance at the 1994
finals in March, won 3-1 away
at Guinea Bissau in Group
Two, while Zimbabwe
thrashed Lesotho 5-0 in
Group One in Harare.
The five-goal haul for the
Zimbabweans included two
for midfielder Vitalis Taka-
wire.
Tanzania thrashed neigh-
bours Uganda 4-0 on Satur-
day, with the first three goals
coming inside the opening
quarter-hour.
There was also a rare
international goal for former
African footballer of the year
George Weah.
The Paris St. Germain
striker scored the only goal of
the game as Liberia beat
Togo 1-0 in their Group Two
match in Monrovia.

Edberg has only himself to blame after U.S. Open defeat

NEW YORK (AP) — Stefan
Edberg has only himself to
blame.
For years, Swedish tennis
players took their cue from
Bjorn Borg, roaming the
baseline and depending on
heavy topspin to pull the ball
down into the court.
Then along came Edberg
and his serve-and-volley
game, climbing to no. 1 in the
world and winning six Grand
Slam titles, including two
U.S. Opens.
Sunday night, Edberg met
his clone — another Swedish
serve-and-volleyer — and on
this night, Joans Bjorkman
dominated.
Bjorkman had the bigger
serve, the crisper volleys,
the more penetrating ground
strokes. And when it was
over, it was Bjorkman who
had a berth in the U.S. Open
fourth round following an
easy 6-4, 6-4, 6-0 victory over
the fifth-seeded Edberg.
"The game I play is exactly
like Stefan's game, so I've
always been looking at him,
how he plays, and try to do
the same thing," Bjorkman
said.
Sunday night, he did it
better than the real thing.
Bjorkman next foe will be
Joern Renzenbrink of Ger-
many, a 6-4, 6-1, 6-3 winner
over Italy's Andrea Gaudenzi.
In other third-round
matches Sunday, top-seeded
Pete Sampras overtook Roger
Smith of the Bahamas
4-6, 6-2, 6-4, 6-3; no. 4
Michael Stich defeated Byron

Black of Zimbabwe 7-6 (7-5),
6-2, 6-1; no. 14 Yevgeny
Kafelnikov of Russia stopped
Spain's Carlos Costa 6-3, 6-4,
6-2; Karel Novacek of the
Czech Republic outlasted
Todd Woodbridge of Australia
1-6, 5-7, 7-6 (8-6), 6-2, 7-6
(7-3); Argentina's Javier Fran-
na eliminated Marcos
Ondruska of South Africa
6-3, 6-1, 6-7 (3-7), 3-6, 6-4;
and Jaime Yzaga of Peru
defeated last year's surprise
finalist, Frenchman Cedric
Pioline, 1-6, 5-7, 7-5, 6-1, 6-4.
Advancing to the women's
quarterfinals were second-
seeded Arantxa Sanchez
Vicario, no. 5 Kimiko Date,
no. 8 Gabriela Sabatini and
Gigi Fernandez.
Sanchez Vicario defeated
Ann Grossman 6-2, 6-2; Date
stopped Leila Meskhi of
Georgia 6-2, 6-7 (5-7), 7-5;
Sabatini ousted Elena
Likhovtseva of Kazakhstan
6-2, 6-1, and Fernandez
downed Ginger Helgeson 6-3,
6-4.
Edberg fell down on the
first point off the 10th game
of the match, appearing to
injure his right wrist. But he
said it was not a major factor
in the loss.
"When I started, I didn't
have the timing," Sampras
said. "I felt a bit sluggish. I
managed to get through
somehow. He serves pretty
well, and I had a hard time
with that. It was a good
match to get through."
"He has a pretty good
serve and he massages the
ball well. He has that chip
backhand that comes back

gained some confidence.
Then he didn't really give me
a chance because he was serv-
ing very well."
The only service break in
the second set came in the
final game, when Bjorkman
broke at 15, Edberg double-
faulting on set point.
From then on, it was all
Bjorkman, finding angles and
passing lanes or booming un-
returnable serves.
"I was really solid in my
serve and volley and never
made any easy mistakes,"
Bjorkman said. "And in the
third set, I finally got my
returns going, then every-
thing was there."
Everything except Edberg
when the match ended 1
hour, 35 minutes after it
started.
Sampras, seeking his third
Grand Slam title of the year
— his only loss was in the
French Open — had a
tougher time than the score
might indicate. Smith, the
second qualifier Sampras has
played in his three matches so
far, gave the world's no. 1
player problems with his slice
backhand, taking all of the
pace off the ball.
"When I started, I didn't
have the timing," Sampras
said. "I felt a bit sluggish. I
managed to get through
somehow. He serves pretty
well, and I had a hard time
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"He has a pretty good
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backhand that comes back



Unseeded Jonas Bjorkman of Sweden raises his arms in victory after his third round win over fifth-seeded Stefan Edberg at the U.S. Open in New York. Bjorkman won 6-4, 6-4, 6-0 (AFP photo)

low. I didn't know what was
coming. It took me a while to
get used to his game."
Smith fought back from 5-0
in the fourth set, winning
three straight games before

U.S. defender Lalas living a dream in Italy

PADUA, Italy (R) — Alexi
Lalas is living out his dream
of playing in the world's best
soccer league — but that
won't change his bohemian
way of life.
"Cut my hair?" Lalas, 24,
the goat-bearded hero of
the U.S. World Cup team
said at a recent warm-up with
Padova, the club he joined
last month to become the first
American to play in Italy's
Serie A.
"You've got to be kid-
ding."
Clubless and unknown be-
fore the World Cup, the for-
mer high school ice hockey
star from Michigan is now a
world famous footballer,
playing against the likes of
Italy's Roberto Baggio and
Dutchman Ruud Gullit.
And despite the language
barrier, he's getting on well.
He and his girlfriend Jill have
a home in the hills around
this city near Venice. He
loves the pasta, weather and
wine, but most of all the
soccer culture.
"Italians live and breathe
the game," said Lalas, to-
ssing back the shock of ginger
hair that has helped give him
the most original look in soc-
cer since Gullit first arrived
with his dreadlocks.
"The fans, the press and
the emotions that sur-
rounded this game — espe-
cially Serie A — is something
no American player has ever
experienced," he said in an
interview with Reuters.
The guitar-strumming
Lalas, who cut a compact disc
with his rock band the Gyp-
sies and plans to record



Alexi Lalas

another one soon, said no-
thing had prepared him for
stardom but vowed it would
not change his ways.
"It's not that I can't pick
my nose in public any more.
It's that when I do, I have to
do it really cool," he said.
"Some people have said,
'this is Serie A, you can't play
music', but I don't see it that
way. I need music in my life
to do anything on the soccer
field."

He said his band was com-
ing over soon "to hang out
and play some acoustic stuff
in some local clubs."
England fans, who remem-
ber the Lalas header which
sealed a humiliating 2-0 de-
feat to the U.S. in a friendly
last year, will see him
Wednesday when the two
sides meet in a friendly re-
match in London.
Critics once said Lalas,
who has 50 caps in two years

but never played club soccer
before joining newly-
promoted Padova on a one-
year deal worth some
\$200,000, would never make
it as far as Serie A.
"Throughout my career,
people have said there's no
way you can play on the
Olympic team, there's no
way you can play on the
national team, there's no way
you can play in the World
Cup and have success," Lalas
said.
"But you know, here I am
— in Italy."
Lalas, whose weakness
may be a lack of speed, called
it an honour to make the
short-list for FIFA's World
Cup all-stars team ahead of
such talented defender as
Brazil's Aldair and Italy's
Alessandro Costacurta.
But Lalas, who scoffed at
the suggestion that he was
one of the world's best defen-
ders, has also proved his met-
tle in his first two games in
Italy.
In his debut last Wednes-
day, an Italian Cup match
won 3-0 by Internazionale,
his diving header off a corner
kick nearly put Padova ahead
first were it not for a miracu-
lous save by Italy goalkeeper
Gianluca Pagliuca.
"Man, I thought it was in,"
Lalas said. "He made a sweet
save, but I didn't see it — my
face was in the mud."
The newspaper Gazzetta
Dello Sport voted Lalas, who
sent another headers just
wide in the second half, his
team's most valuable player
for the match.
Corriere Dello Sport news-

paper, commenting on the
stopper's imposing frame,
said: "What striker wouldn't
be just a little frightened of
Lalas?"
Padova's opening match in
Serie A Sunday was a bap-
tism of fire for Lalas as Samp-
doria thrashed them 5-0, but
coach Mauro Sandreani said
Lalas was already up to par
and needed only refine his
play.
"He needs to improve his
coordination with the team
and become a little more
elegant in his moves. But his
air game is a formidable
offensive weapon which we
plan to exploit fully," Sand-
reani said.
Italy coach Arrigo Sacchi
has also praised Lalas, and
fellow defender David Balleri
said the American had a good
rapport with teammates de-
spite having to communicate
in a jumble of English, Italian
and Spanish.
Lalas, who studied English
literature at New Jersey's
Rutgers University — where
he gave up a future in profes-
sional ice hockey in a gamble
on soccer — said his Italian
was getting better.
"My teammates have
taught me all the bad words,"
he said. "It was a great
experience. It was a great
feeling. A great week. I love it
all."

GOREN BRIDGE

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ANSWERS TO WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

Q1.—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠AK6 ♣KQ654 ♠AQ
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1 ♠ 1 NT Pass
What do you bid now?
A.—You were correct not to open one no trump—your fifth diamond makes the hand too strong. But that doesn't mean you should go overboard now. North should have a hand of 9-10 points, perhaps less because West's overall might have improved the positional values. A raise to three no trump is adequate.

Q2.—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠QJ72 ♠963 ♠5 ♣KJ94
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ 1 NT Pass
What action do you take?
A.—Just let an opening takeout double stampede you into an action you might regret. Simply dis-
regard the takeout double and make the response you would have had there been no interference. Raise to two spades.

Q3.—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠Q95 ♠6542 ♠84 ♣73
The bidding has proceeded:
West North East South
1 ♠ 1 NT 3 ♠ Pass
What action do you take?
A.—You might have acted over East's preemptive club raise. How-
ever, now partner is showing a very good hand by bidding three spades vulnerable. You have a sure trick in the queen of spades, a possible ruff-
ing value and some other goodies. Raise to four spades.

Q4.—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠QJ72 ♠963 ♠5 ♣KJ94
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ 1 NT Pass
What do you bid now?
A.—What's the problem? Three hearts? We can almost hear you saying, "The problem is that that's our second choice. With so much of our strength in secondary honors and outside the long suit, we prefer a raise to two no trump."

Q5.—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠QJ72 ♠963 ♠5 ♣KJ94
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ 1 NT Pass
What do you bid now?
A.—With a full opening bid, no particular liking for either of partner's suits and the unbid suit well supported, all ingredients are present for a no-trump contract. But be careful to jump to three no trump—two no trump would be invitational and might get passed.

Q6.—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠QJ72 ♠963 ♠5 ♣KJ94
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ 1 NT Pass
What do you bid now?
A.—With a full opening bid, no particular liking for either of partner's suits and the unbid suit well supported, all ingredients are present for a no-trump contract. But be careful to jump to three no trump—two no trump would be invitational and might get passed.

THE EAST

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